UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ
Edmonton, Aug. 8 - 21, 2007 Vol. LXXX № 15, Price: $1.75

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Early election campaign begins

(RFE/RL/UkrNews)—The campaign for Ukraine's early parliamentary elections officially began Aug. 2, giving candidates 60 days to present their bids before elections on Sept. 30, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

By press time Aug. 8, all three major blocs — Party of Regions, Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine-Our Defense had held their congresses and prepared their lists.

The early elections are aimed at solving a bitter power struggle between western-leaning President Viktor Yushchenko and pro-Moscow Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych.

The dispute was sparked by Yushchenko's decision to dissolve parliament, taken in response to what Yushchenko said was an attempt by Yanukovych's parliamentary majority to usurp power.

The political crisis has brought the government to a near standstill for nearly half a year.

Ukraine's president, by now well accustomed to the practice, on Aug. 1 published his fourth decree in as many months scheduling early parliamentary elections.

The latest decree, announced by presidential representative to the Central Election Commission Maryna Stavniyuchuk, effectively corrected legal hang-ups that may have derailed the Sept. 30 vote and paved the way for the election campaign to begin the next day.

President Viktor Yushchenko's latest decree makes more detailed references to the constitutional provisions on which he based his decision to call new elections. The president also clarifies that he disbanded the Verkhovna Rada "in connection with [its] lack of powers and the impossibility to restore [them]."

It also addresses legal concerns raised by the ruling coalition, particularly the Communist Party and the Party of Regions, that such elections should be scheduled within the 60 days after the publication of a relevant decree.

Yushchenko has vowed that Ukraine can "learn a lesson" from its months-long political crisis, but RFE/RL regional analyst Jan Maksymiuk doubts that new elections will provide the answer.

Yulia Tymoshenko at her bloc's congress, Aug. 5.

"According to all surveys of public opinion, the alignment of forces in a future parliament may be actually the same as it is now. So we may have a situation when the Party of Regions and [Prime Minister] Viktor Yanukovych may just renew his current government," Maksymiuk says. "Or, maybe, we may have a situation when the Party of Regions strikes a coalition with the pro-Yushchenko election bloc — I mean, Our Ukraine and [People's] Self-Defense."

Among the few differences that can be found in the current situation may be a newfound willingness by Yushchenko to work with Party of Regions head Yanukovych, the man he bitterly contested in winning the presidency in 2004.

In addition, Maksymiuk believes that the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which will run its own list of candidates, stands to make some gains at the expense of her former Orange Revolution ally, Yushchenko.

The government has been at a virtual standstill for nearly half a year. Yushchenko has not signed into law any of the legislation adopted by parliament since 169 opposition lawmakers resigned in June, providing him with the legal basis for setting the new election date.

Not much has changed in terms of campaign issues. NATO and EU accession will remain a divisive factor, as will calls for making Russian an official state language. New to this poll will be the candidates' stance on abolishing parliamentarians' immunity from prosecution — an initiative of the pro-presidential Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc.

Despite some reservations, polls carried out the previous week by the Socis Center of Sociological and Political Research indicate that 50 percent of Ukrainians are "certain" they will vote in the elections., while 26 percent say they are "likely to do so." Eleven percent are undecided and 13 percent say they will definitely not vote.

And of those who plan to vote, nearly one-quarter are doing so in the hope that it will change things for the better.

Publication Mail Agreement #40007679, paid at Edmonton, Alberta. PAP Number: 08935

We acknowledge the assistance of the Government of Canada through the Publications Assistance Program toward our mailing costs.

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PHOTO — DAUPHIN HERALD

Pavlynchenko perform

Saskatoon's Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble perform during Canada's National Ukrainian Festival, which was held in Dauphin, Man., Aug. 3-5. For more, see Page 8 of this issue.

Ющенко вимагає перевірити Азарова за корупцію

(Українська правда)—Президент Віктор Ющенко наполягає на проведенні службових розслідувань низки фактів використання коштів центральними органами виконавчої влади.

Ідеться про належну оцінку дій керівництва Міністерства фінансів, повідомила прес-служба президента, 3 серпня.

У своєму листі до прем'єр-міністра Віктора Януковича президент відзначив кілька підстав для проведення таких службових розслідувань.

Він зокрема нагадав, що у держбюджеті-2007 для Мінфіну передбачено 3,5 млн. грн. на заходи по боротьбі з корупцією – відповідно до постанови уряду від 14 березня 2007 року зазначені кошти мають використовуватися уповноваженою громадською організацією, визначеною за результатами відкритого конкурсу.

У конкурсі ж, проведеному міністерством 22 травня, взяли участь представники лише двох громадських організацій – "Антикорупційний форум" та "Національний комітет боротьби з корупцією" – при тому, що в Україні налічується понад двісті громадських утворень подібного спрямування.

Переможцем стала ВГО "Антикорупційний форум", заснована у грудні 2001 року за ініціативою Миколи Азарова, який на той час очолював Партію регіонів та обіймав посаду Голови Державної податкової адміністрації.

"Виникають сумніви щодо прозорості проведеного конкурсу, а в кінцевому результаті і ефективності використання зазначених коштів, оскільки керівник Міністерства фінансів України пов'язаний особистими та партійними зв'язками з організацією, що стала переможцем конкурсу", – відзначив президент.

На переконання Ющенка, особиста участь першого віце-прем'єр-міністра, міністра фінансів Азарова та інших відповідальних працівників Мінфіну у непрозорій схемі розподілу бюджетних коштів "піддає сумніву наміри уряду боротися з корупцією, оскільки дискредитується сама ідея залучення громадських організацій до цього процесу".

У цьому контексті президент нагадав, що Азаров також є співголовою Ради з питань забезпечення реалізації в Україні порогової програми корпорації "Виклики тисячоліття" щодо зниження рівня корупції.

"У іноземних партнерів уже сьогодні виникають побоювання щодо спроможності української влади реалізувати цю програму і подолати "корупційний поріг", – відзначив Ющенко.

Говорячи про Мінфін, президент, окрім того, відзначив, що значна частина працівників відомства, крім основного місця роботи, була оформлена за сумісництвом у Науково-дослідний фінансовий інститут Міністерства та в комерційні структури, які укладали з ним договори без відпрацювання робочого часу за місцем оформлення.

Януковичі не пішли на вибори з Морозом через його високі запити

(Українська правда)—Партія регіонів і Соцпартія не змогли створити спільний виборчий список для участі в дострокових виборах через завищені запити соціалістів.

Про це заявив депутат від Партії регіонів Олександр Стоян в ефірі "5 каналу" 7 серпня, повідомляє Ліга.

Він відзначив, що з соціалістами "була попередня розмова" про можливість створення спільного блоку або списку.

За словами Стояна, Партія регіонів не могла погодитися на вимоги СПУ щодо кількості представників соціалістів у списку, їх порядкових номерів і майбутніх посад.

Він заявив, що причиною неможливості формування спільного списку стали "дуже високі запити наших колег".

У результаті цього, за словами депутата, Партія регіонів вирішила йти на дострокові вибори самостійно.

Як відомо, 4 серпня X з'їзд Партії регіонів затвердив список кандидатів в депутати для участі в позачергових парламентських виборах 30 вересня. Того ж дня на своєму з'їзді власний список затвердила і Соцпартія.

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Вогненебезпечна львівська залізниця

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

3 серпня, 2007р. (Radiosvoboda.Ua) – У п'ятницю у Львові згоріли 5 цистерн з нафтопродуктами. Пожежу працівники МНС гасили упродовж 2 годин. А на теренах області, в Ожидові, загорались залишки фосфору.

Близько 6 години ранку загорілись 5 цистерн із нафтопродуктами, які стояли біля складів. З ними зіштовхнувся вантажний потяг, машиніст протаранив цистерни з бензином, коли виконував маневр.

Управління МНС у Львівській області заявляє про незадовільний стан протипожежної безпеки на нафтобазі. Працівники МНС ліквідували пожежу протягом 2 годин. Як з'ясувалось, пожежна водойма була заповнена водою лише частково. Павло Василенко, керівник прес-служби управління МНС у Львівській області каже, що виникнення пожежі не пов'язане з порушенням правил пожежної безпеки. Однак є серйозні проблеми із залізницею, і хто винен з пожежею, нафтобаза, чи залізниця, — це ще питання, вважає він.

ВАТ «Концерн «Галнафтогаз» називає недбалість працівників «Львівської залізниці» причиною аварії і вимагає порушення кримінальної справи. Внаслідок пожежі згоріли складські приміщення, а також пальне марки А-95, в кожній із 5 цистерн було близько 60 тонн бензину. Неподалік від місця пожежі стояли 9 резервуарів з авіапаливом, але пожежникам вдалося їх врятувати.

На виконкомі Львівської міськради обговорювали нинішню аварію у Львові і ситуацію з усіма вогненебезпечними підприємствами на території міста. Державна пожежна наглядова служба перевіряє об'єкти раз у рік, згідно з законодавством і обов'язково узгоджує дату візиту з керівником. Як правило, підприємці вміють залагодити підписання документів про пожежну безпеку.

У Львові побутує думка, що залізниця уже становить для людей небезпеку, а перевезення вантажів у будь-який момент може спричинити катастрофу.

Горіло і в Ожидові, на місці фосфорної аварії. Працівники залізниці за допомогою екскаватора витягнули шар землі із залишками хімічної сполуки і виникло загоряння.

На вимогу слідчих Львівської обласної прокуратури, які шукали залізничні рейки, залізничники розрили землю. Коли їх вийняли, то на них були залишки фосфору, які спалахували і згоряли. Управління МНС стверджує, що уже сьогодні нічого не димить.

Водночас мешканці навколишніх сіл кажуть, що чують дим і себе погано почувають. На шкірі з'являються чиряки, одні проходять, тут же нові з'являються, кажуть люди.

Пожежа на місці аварії виникала хаотично три дні поспіль, свідчать представники депутатського корпусу Буської райради. На місці аварії працівники залізниці та МНС протягом дня відкачували піну та воду, що зібралася після гасіння пожежі. Залишки фосфору уже не загораються.

Ющенко вимагає "жертви"

(Українська правда)—Президент Віктор Ющенко вимагає скасування депутатської недоторканності та ліквідації пільг для депутатів та інших чиновників. Про це він заявив під час свого виступу на міжпартійному з'їзді блоку "Наша Україна – Народна самооборона" 7 серпня.

"Я категорично вимагаю скасувати необмежену депутатську недоторканність. Це пріоритет. Це ключ, який дозволить розімкнути коло корупції у Верховній Раді і будь-якому ешелоні влади. Це реальний шлях для очищення самої влади", - сказав президент.

Ющенко висловив радість із приводу того, що "саме блок "Наша Україна – Народна самооборона" наполегливо проводить політику скасування депутатської недоторканності". "На мій погляд, зараз це є головне", - зауважив глава держави.

"Розпочавши зі скасування недоторканності, ми візьмемо корупцію за горло... У парламенті творять закони, а не ховаються від законів. Закон єдиний для всіх, незалежно від твого статусу, професії і віку", - додав він.

Крім того, президент заявив про необхідність "позбутися вражаючих за розміром пільг для депутатів та інших можновладців".

За словами Ющенка, "сьогодні число таких привілеїв становить 30 позицій - це безкоштовні тири, транспорт, санаторії, медичні і соціальні послуги".

"Щороку платники податків витрачають на депутатські пільги майже півмільярда гривень - це блюзнірство. Таку політику ми не тільки зупинимо, але й поставимо на сторожі Національне антикорупційне бюро", - наголосив президент.

Крім того, він додав, що "люди потребують ефективної і справедливої соціальної політики".

"Наш пакет соціальних ініціатив відображає ці вимоги. Для цього є кошти і всі можливості у держави. Я ставлю реальні орієнтири, які втілимо у життя", - сказав президент, перерахувавши свої Острозькі ініціативи

Тимошенко пропонує довічне ув'язнення за хабарі

(Українська правда)—Лідер БЮТ Юлія Тимошенко пропонує посилити відповідальність чиновників за корупцію, аж до довічного ув'язнення.

Таке положення своєї програми "Український прорив" вона озвучила на з'їзді БЮТ 5 серпня. "Довічне ув'язнення для виявлених корупціонера при владі", - наголосила Тимошенко. Цю репліку присутні зустріли бурхливими оплесками.

Тимошенко також пообіцяла захищати інвесторів в Україні. "Ми повинні зробити, щоб інвестора в Україні супроводжував спеціальний інвестиційний омбудсмен від самого початку роботи інвестиційного проекту.

Вона пообіцяла спростити процедуру купівлі інвесторами землі несільськогосподарського призначення. "Два-три, максимум чотири місяці повинно йти в інвестора на те, щоб взяти землю для розвитку інвестиційного проекту", - переконана лідер БЮТ.

Говорячи про реформу судової системи, вона запропонувала "обирати і відкликати суддів всенародно" та прибрати судові збори, щоб "зняти перешкоди для людей, які хочуть звернутися до суду".

Для оцінки діяльності суддів Тимошенко пропонує створити "спеціальні дисциплінарні комісії, що не залежать від жодної гілки влади", які могли б "виносити рішення відносно стягнень аж до позбавлення їх (суддів) права будь-коли займати суддівські посади".

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Тимошенко обіцяє ухвалення законів про опозицію

(Українська правда)—Лідер БЮТ Юлія Тимошенко обіцяє забезпечити в разі приходу до влади ухвалення законів про опозицію. Про це вона заявила на з'їзді блоку 5 серпня.

"Владу необхідно проконтролювати. А як це зробити? Мені тут один обізнаний чоловік сказав, що найкращий контролер – це народ. Але чи є в народу права, щоб контролювати?", - запитала Тимошенко.

На її думку, найкращим контролером може бути парламентська опозиція, якій "треба дати залізти в кожну клітину влади з градусником і приладами, щоб визначити її стан".

При цьому лідер БЮТ не боїться, що її можливим контролером може стати політична сила Віктора Януковича.

"Нашій владі приховувати нема чого. І ми готові будь-якого Януковича з усім його сукупним інтелектом запустити проконтролювати нашу владу", - стверджує вона.

Крім того, лідер БЮТ запропонувала надати право громадам проводити місцеві й національні референдуми з будь-якого приводу. Вона також пообіцяла, що разом з достроковими виборами до парламенту буде проведено референдум щодо концепції нової української Конституції. Після цього, за словами Тимошенко, буде створена конституційна асамблея, що працюватиме над текстом Конституції, який потім знову буде винесений на референдум.

UCC prepares for new observer mission

(UCC National)—The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is preparing to send an observer mission to monitor the early elections to Ukraine's parliament scheduled for Sept. 30. This will be the third mission that the Congress has sponsored as part of its on-going commitment to promoting the development of a fully democratic Ukrainian society. Anyone interested in being a volunteer observer is asked to complete the application form on the UCC website (http://www.ucc.ca/eom/) by Aug. 17. Potential observers should also ensure that their passport is valid for six months after their entry into Ukraine.

The size of the mission will be partly determined by the number of volunteers as well as the available resources. Thanks to its previous missions the UCC can draw upon a wealth of practical experience, and has a Kyiv office and Ukrainian support staff ready to be deployed. Once again, the Congress is appealing to Ukrainian community members to support this worthwhile endeavour by generously donating to the UCC. Whereas observers are expected to cover their airfare to Ukraine either personally or through organizational sponsorships, internal travel, some meals and accommodation costs incurred performing monitoring duties will be paid for by the Congress from the mission budget.

Although Ukraine has made positive strides toward achieving a more transparent and fair electoral process, challenges still remain. Since the vote is expected to be hotly contested, extra vigilance will be required to ensure that Ukraine's election laws are not violated by any of the competing parties. The UCC does not endorse individual candidates, political parties or coalitions – its only goal is to help ensure that the decision of Ukrainian voters is made without illegal interference and that the results are respected by electoral authorities.□

"Among the many positive effects of electoral missions is that they help to inspire those who go to work as observers, and to reaffirm their appreciation of democratic values. Thus, both Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian community benefit from participation in such missions," notes Jars Balan, the chair of the UCC's Canada-Ukraine Committee. "Furthermore, besides serving as an obvious deterrent to cheating, the presence of outside observers can be reassuring to both voters and election officials. Of course, the involvement of Canadians of Ukrainian descent also demonstrates their solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine as they struggle to shake off the legacy of centuries of authoritarian rule."

Leading the mission will be UCC President, Orysia Sushko, while the organizational committee is being chaired by Emil Yereniuk of Edmonton. The selection of observers will be made in consultation with UCC Provincial Councils, and the decisions announced by the end of August.

The UCC urges potential observers to closely follow the situation in Ukraine, as the mission could be cancelled in the event that further political developments result in the Sept., 30 election being rescheduled or indefinitely postponed.

Former CEC head to visit Canada

(UkrNews)—The former head of Ukraine's Central Election Commission will be coming to Canada to inform the community about what to expect in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Yaroslav Dadydovych, who served as CEC head during the 2006 parliamentary elections, will be brought her by the "Dopomoha Ukraini" (Aid to Ukraine Foundation).

Though the exact schedule was not known as this issue of Ukrainian News went to press, tentative appearances had been scheduled for Toronto, Aug. 25, and Edmonton, Aug. 26.

"As the deputy head of the Central Election Commission, who refused to sign off on the fraudulent 2004 presidential elections, then as the head of the CEC for the 2006 parliamentary elections, which were universally accepted as the fairest in Ukrainian history, Mr. Davydovych has a track record of principled and methodical work," said MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj on behalf of the Dopomoha Ukraini Foundation.

"No one has a better understanding of Ukraine's electoral process than he, thus no one is better placed to inform us what we can expect in these upcoming elections," he added.

Redress meeting with ministers postponed

A July 31 meeting between Canadian Heritage Minister Bev Oda, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Jason Kenney and representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community to discuss the redress for internment issue has been postponed.

Veronique Bruneau, press secretary for Minister Oda, told Ukrainian News the meeting was postponed due to a scheduling problem for the minister.

She said the Ukrainian community representatives have been contacted a new meeting is being arranged for some time in September.

Ukrainian News was directed to Oda's office after originally contacting Kenney's.

June 13 the government announced it had received Treasury Board for the $24 million Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP), which would oblige ethnocultural communities to apply for funding for projects aimed at recalling past government wrong doings.

This has been rejected by the community's representatives, Paul Grod, vice-president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, director of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Andrew Hlady-shevsky, QC, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.

The Ukrainian Canadian community has called for a series of commemorative, educational and cultural initiatives to be funded through a community administered foundation, with an endowment based upon a determination of the present day value of the economic losses suffered by the community (approximately $47 million).

Ukraine agrees to imprison Yugoslav war criminals

Ukraine signed an agreement Aug. 7 with the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal to incarcerate convicted criminals, the first country outside Western Europe to offer its prisons to the U.N. court, reported the Associated Press.

The tribunal said Ukraine became the 12th country to sign an enforcement agreement. The court was established in 1993 to prosecute those most responsible for crimes against humanity and war crimes during the violent breakup of the former Yugoslavia and the 1999 Kosovo war.

Suspects are locked up at the tribunal's detention center, a wing of a maximum security Dutch prison in the Hague suburb of Scheveningen. Once convicted, and after the completion of any appeals process, war criminals serve their sentences in countries that agree to take them. The Netherlands isn't one of them.

Currently, 26 convicts are imprisoned in Belgium, the U.K., Italy, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Austria, France, Spain, Denmark and Germany.

Since its creation, the court has indicted 161 people and sent 51 to prison. Ten more convictions are under appeal and 40 cases are in the trial or pretrial stage.

Four suspects are still at large, including former Bosnian leader Radovan Karadzic and his top general, Ratko Mladic. The court is due to close its doors by 2010.

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На Волині триває ліквідація наслідків буревію

Валентина Одарченко, *Радіо Свобода*

Від 31-го до 56 мільйонів гривень – такі суми називають чиновники різних рівнів, оцінюючи збитки від буревію на півночі Волині при кінці липня. Від стихії постраждали 7 районів області, триста гектарів лісу повалив вітер, ще півтори тисячі гектарів суттєво пошкоджені. Сім будинків зруйновані вщент, у 1820-и повністю або частково пошкоджена покрівля. Кабмін виділив 8 мільйонів 900 тисяч гривень для ліквідації наслідків стихії.

Ще кілька днів раніше люди скаржилися на повільну роботу служб, покликаних відновити життєдіяльність їхніх сіл:

"У нас біда чорна, ми сидимо просто неба"…

"Пенсіонери, одинокі – нам бригад не дали, ми винаймали за свої кошти, платили гроші свої, нам нічого ніхто не дав… Будматеріали купили за свої кошти"…

" Треба двісті шиферин і крокви – ми не маємо, за що купити… Дитина травмована – що робити далі?"

" Дощ пішов – стеля зараз буде падати"…

" А в мене впала"…

Багато хто з волинян ще не оговтався від стресу. Турбує їх і те, яким чином вони отримають компенсації:

Жінка: «Як будуть відшкодовуватися, повертатися кошти? Я розумію, що завезти матеріали за один день не можна. Я звернулася до свого начальника в Луцьку, то вони купили мені будматеріали. Але на чуже прізвище – хто купував, на того й написали накладну. Ось вона, на руках, – чи її переписувати?»

Насправді наслідки стихії ліквідовували майже дві тисячі людей, лише половина з них – місцеві, однак рук і досі бракує. Триває відновлення 350 будинків. На сьогодні вісімдесяти двом найбільш постраждалим сім'ям Турійського району виплатили грошову допомогу у розмірі дві тисячі гривень.

28 шкіл та всі дошкільні заклади відновили роботу. У восьми школах триває ремонт. До завтрашнього дня енергетики обіцяють повністю відновити електропостачання. Втім, мешканцям семи будинків доведеться надати інше житло.

Голова обласної адміністрації Володимир Бондар повідомив, що цим людям запропонують вибір – відбудовувати хату з нуля чи переселитися в сусідні села:

«Чи вона ухвалила рішення переїжджати, чи відбудовувати будинок. Потрібно знати, до якої школи підуть діти, як вони будуть нагодовані і все інше».

Під час перебування у Турійському районі заступник голови Секретаріату Президента Віктор Бондар зауважив про необхідність негайного поновлення втрачених населенням документів:

«У багатьох людей повидувало з хат не лише речі і гроші, а й документи. Необхідно негайно їх поновити. Бо документів немає на руках, щоб щось підтверджувати».

Частину коштів для перекриття дахів та відновлення осель надав обласний бюджет, іншу частину матеріалів взяли з умовою оплатити згодом. У Турійському, Рожищенському і Горохівському районах складені списки більше тисячі дітей, яких відправлять на оздоровлення, місцевій владі доручили скласти списки студентів з постраждалої території, які навчаються платно. Їх переводитимуть на безкоштовну форму навчання.

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Продовження в історії серійних вбивств Дніпропетровська

Юлія Рацибарська, *Радіо Свобода*

Мешканці Дніпропетровська вимагають оголосити у місті жалобу за 15-ма загиблими від рук 19-тирічних маньяків. Упродовж трьох тижнів люди жили у страху — в різних районах міста знаходили поранених людей і тіла вбитих. Наразі правоохоронці з'ясували, що всі ці злочини чинили хлопці з цілком благополучних родин. Усі злочини — без певної мети, задля забавки.

Пікет на центральній площі Дніпропетровська нечисленний. Кілька десятків людей, дописувачі форумів міських інтернет-сайтів, домовилися зібратись. Ні плакатів, ні гучних промов. Всіх їх об'єднує одне — сумніви у тому, що влада і правоохоронці не «замкнуть» справу.

Люди кажуть, через суперечливість офіційних повідомлень і цілий вал неофіційних виникають підозри, що громадськість дезінформують.

«Чому це замовчується? Ходять плітки, що це діти високопоставлених багатих батьків, відповідно, вони можуть відкупитись».

«Є суперечлива інформація, чи їх було троє, двоє. Люди, що цим займаються! Ви подумайте, наскільки ви совісливо підійдете до цієї справи, буде залежати життя інших людей. Якщо ви зараз когось відкупити і відсудите, то наступні вбивства будуть на вашій совісті».

«… Щоб керівництво міста і керівництво МВС виступило зі своїм баченням подій і буквально дало нам чесне слово, що все буде зроблено по-чесному, тому що є сумніви».

Сумніватися у достовірності інформації про справу почали після прес-конференції у прокуратурі. Там заявили — звинувачення висунули двом підозрюваним. Раніше начальник обласної міліції Іван Ступак говорив, що затриманих троє і навіть демонстрував фото. Невідоме і точне число жертв. Називають 15,16, 19…

За інформацією міліції, молодики їздили містом на авто і вбивали зазвичай літніх людей, що не могли чинити опору. Але серед скоєних злочинів — убивство міліціонера в Запорізькій області, де молодики відпочивали біля моря. Говорить начальник УМВС в області Іван Ступак:

«Вони скоювали злочини на території всієї області, і ми познаходимо все, що можна. Але мова не йде, що ми намагаємось щось їм зайве інкримінувати. Для цього повинні бути докази, і ми не підемо на це». Версію про те, що затримані юнаки — діти високопосадовців, чи, як писала преса, працівників прокуратури, теж не підтверджують. Про це заявила співробітник прокуратури Вікторія Литвин:

«Вони справді діти з доволі благополучних нормальних родин. Нормальні родини, нормальні діти. Не високопоставлених, не чиновників. Такої інформації у нас немає».

Між тим місцеві психологи вже зацікавились феноменом цих злочинів. Кажуть, вони не зовсім підпадають під серійні вбивства, бо їх зазвичай скоюють поодинці люди, які мають хворобливі фантазії. Дніпропетровські ж «маніяки» діяли організовано і, як показує слідство, цілком тверезо.

Психолог Валерій Пустоваров переконаний – злочини нетипові, їх не можна було передбачити й попередити:

«Я песиміст, і я вам скажу достатньо відому річ: значна частина серійних вбивств скоюється у США, де прекрасний рівень інформованості, прекрасно працює преса, поліція. І я вам скажу: якщо ми маємо справу з невмотивованими вбивствами, то їх попередити — це завдання, яке неможливо виконати».

Наразі правоохоронці усі епізоди об'єднали в одну справу. До слідчих дій залучили прокуратуру й міліцію.

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BYT approves election list

(UkrNews)ÑThe Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (BYT) approved the electoral roll of it candidates for parliament at its inter-party congress in Kyiv, Aug. 5.

The top ten candidates are: Yulia Tymoshenko, Oleksandr Turchynov, Mykola Tomenko, Yosyp Vinskyi, Andriy Shevchenko, Viktor Pinzenyk, Hryhoriy Omelchenko, Vitaliy Kurylo, Mykola Petruk and Yevhen Korniychuk.

In presenting the list, Tymoshenko noted that all current deputies from the bloc were on the list.

"I kept my word and will be keeping it before my party members and people of Ukraine", she added.

Members of the bloc include Tymoshenko's own Fatherland Party, as well as the Reforms and Order Party and the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party. Fatherland has 350 places on the list, the other two — 50 each

Speaking later that evening with TV channel "1+1", Tymoshenko stressed the need for constitutional reform, and a strong hand to create order Òbuilt on national and world values — such as market economy, such as democracy".

Tymoshenko reiterated that her bloc will under no circumstances enter into a coalition with Party of Regions.

"I consider that this would be an unnatural coalition, if we create a coalition of democratic forces with, what in my opinion is an anti-Ukrainian mafia group.

"Either there will be a democratic coalition, or our political force will be in opposition. And being in opposition we will be much more useful than compromising with non-Ukrainian political forces. We will move, as usual, expressly, consistently, and predictably," Tymoshenko added.

Pro-presidential bloc hold convention

(RFE/RL)—The Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc gathered for a convention in Kyiv on Aug. 7 to approve its election manifesto and candidates for the early parliamentary elections on Sept. 30, Ukrainian media reported.

The top five on the bloc's candidate list are People's Self-Defense leader Yuriy Lutsenko, Our Ukraine People's Union leader Vyacheslav Kyrylenko, Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Defense Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko, and European Platform for Ukraine leader Mykola Katerynchuk.

The convention was attended by President Viktor Yushchenko, who hailed the unification of democratic forces in Ukraine into a single election bloc.

"You have made a real step into the future.... I am with you. We are an indivisible team. A single force. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc is going forward with us," Yushchenko said.

"Our ideal is a powerful state, a single people, a single official language, a single Christian Orthodox Church, and a single nation," he said.

Yushchenko also approved of the bloc's announced intention to form a new party after the elections.

"The new party will not be seeking cushy jobs. It will work for the benefit of the nation, the individual; it will operate effectively in power and in the opposition," he said.

The election program of the bloc, titled "For People, Not For Politicians," calls for abolishing parliamentary immunity, canceling privileges for lawmakers, setting up a national anticorruption bureau, and forming an independent body to vet all judges.

Nine parties signed an agreement in Kyiv on Aug. 2 to form the bloc.

The bloc, with the pro-presidential Our Ukraine People's Union at its core, was joined by the Forward Ukraine! party, the People's Rukh of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Republican Party Sobor, the Ukrainian People's Party, the Christian Democratic Union Party, the Pora Party, the Party of Motherland Defenders, and the European Party of Ukraine.

The ltop candidate, Lutsenko, is one of the leaders of the Orange Revolution in 2004 and interior minister in the cabinets of Yulia Tymoshenko, Yuriy Yekhanurov, and Viktor Yanukovych in 2005-06.

Regions Party to focus on social issues

(Ukrainian Journal)—The Regions Party, led by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, will focus on social issues rather than on foreign policy while campaigning ahead of the Sept. 30 election, party officials said Aug. 4.

The switch is a remarkable turnaround for the party, which has so far been campaigning on a pro-Russian foreign policy course. It also comes days after President Viktor Yushchenko called on political groups to avoid divisive foreign policy and domestic issues.

The development suggests a growing chance that the creation of a grand coalition, perhaps involving the Regions Party and Yushchenko's Our Ukraine group, is possible after the election.

"Even in the case of a convincing victory by any party a single political group will not be able to form the majority," Yanukovych said addressing a congress of the Regions Party on Aug. 4.

"We have to keep persuading our political opponents that there is no alternative to uniting political groups for the sake of a prosperous Ukraine," he said.

The fact that the Regions Party held the congress also indicates that the group-as have most other political groups — has finally accepted the plan for the early election on Sept. 30. The plan has so far been challenged by the Socialist Party, a coalition partner of the Regions Party, leading to speculation that the parties may seek to undermine the vote.

The Regions Party promised to dramatically increase social payments to families with children, to introduce individual pension accounts, to improve healthcare and to accelerate agriculture reforms among the top issues ahead of the vote.

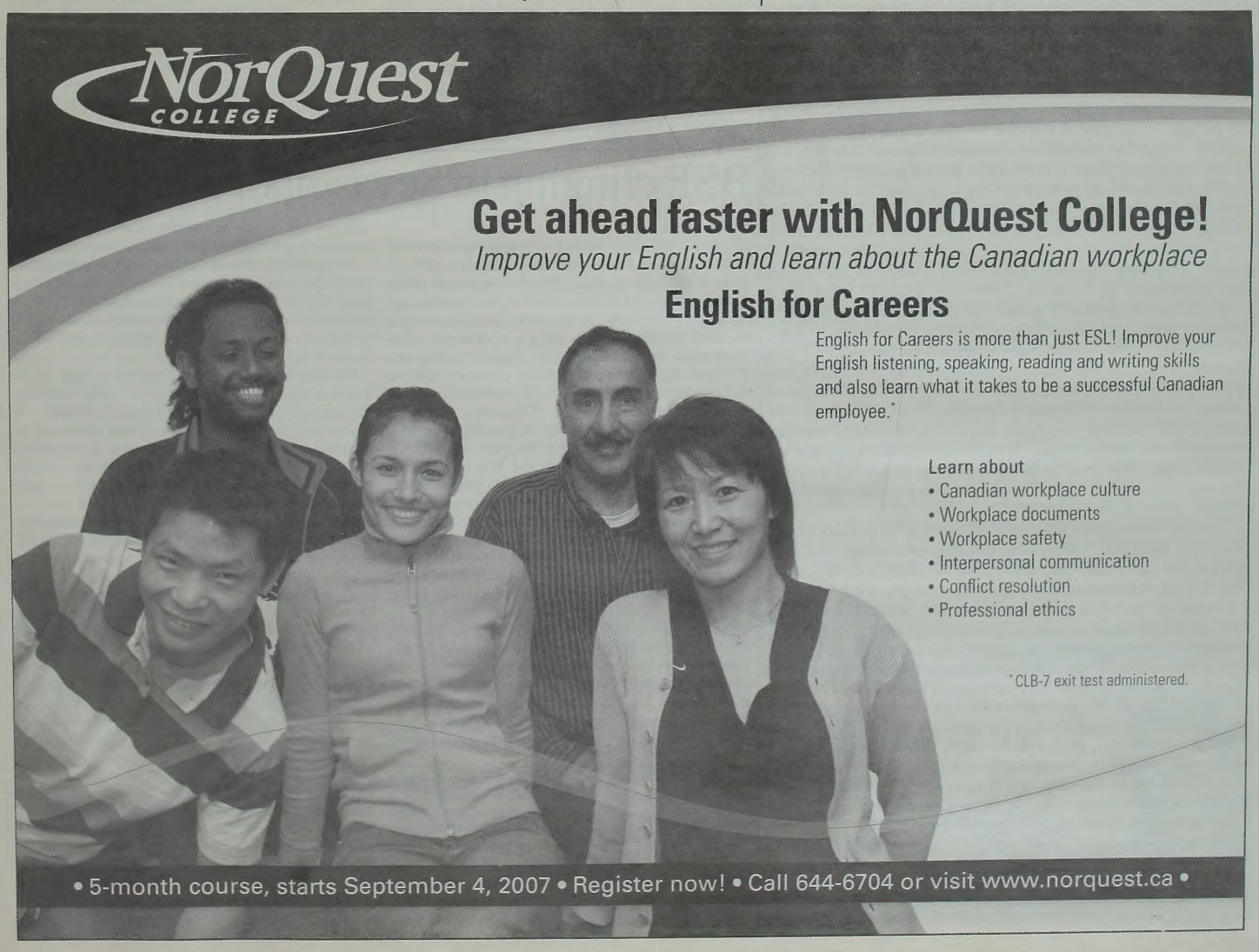
The party suggested the government will pay 11,700 hryvnias ($2,340) to families along with the birth of their first child, Yanukovych said. This payment will increase to UAH25,000 for the second child and to UAH50,000 for the third and each subsequent child.

The measure, aimed at stimulating the birth rate in Ukraine, is a followup to Yushchenko's dramatic payment increase, from about UAH200 to UAH8,000 for the birth of a child.

Yushchenko's measure was widely praised among young families in Ukraine and has led to a notable increase in the birth rate in Ukraine over the past two years. The measure was later copied by Russian President Vladimir Putin as an attempt to stimulate birth in Russia, whose population has been also persistently shrinking.

The switch to social issues and economic reforms in the campaign is a remarkable change for the Regions Party, which has been so far campaigning on anti-NATO and pro-Russian slogans.

The Regions Party, whose power base is in Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as in Crimea, regions dominated by people mostly speaking the Russian language, has been so far capitalizing on pro-Russian rhetoric.



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Publisher:
Edmonton Lasergraphics,
A Division of Canadian Cryptics Ltd.
President: Marco Levytsky

Editor: Marco Levytsky
Hon. Kyiv Bureau Chief: Vitaliy Shevchenko
Advertising, Subscription: Irena Hladki

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We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs. PAP# 08935

Редактор: Марко Левицький
Поч. Гол. Київського Бюра: Віталій Шевченко
Оголошення, Передплати: Ірена Гладкі

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Election requires vigilance

Ukraine's pre-term election campaign has officially begun. While the Socialists, who face elimination as a parliamentary force due to their betrayal of the Orange forces are still trying all kinds of tactics to prevent these elections from happening, they're not likely to succeed. All three major players have agreed and that's what matters.

Whether or not these elections will change anything remains to be seen. All polls put the Party of Regions (PRU) in the lead, with percentage support somewhere in the thirties. The Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc (BYT) is next with support in the twenties, followed by the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc in the teens. The Communists look like they'll pass the 3% barrier again, which will bolster the current coalition.

What will happen if the end result remain much the same as it is right now, the only difference being the elimination of the Socialists? Will the current impasse continue, or will there be some serious efforts to put together a broad coalition? The constitution requires that coalitions be formed by blocs — not groupings within the blocs. But the possibility of internal splits is very real. Some in the Our Ukraine grouping favour a "grand coalition" with Regions. Others are adamantly opposed. There also appears to be a split within Region ranks between Viktor Yanukovych and Rinat Akhmetov. Could we see a coup within the PRU that would put forward a candidate for prime minister more palatable to Our Ukraine than Yanukovych?

Meanwhile, the question of whether the combined Orange forces, or PRU and Communists get a majority will very likely be decided by a very few percentage points. Here a number of factors come into play. Will Yuriy Lutsenko, who could have passed the barrier with his own Self-Defense group, be able to pull his enough of his own supporters into Our Ukraine to make a difference? Will Pora and Pravytsia, two parties who ran separately in 2006, but have now joined the Our Ukraine-Self defense bloc also add a few percentage points? Or will many disillusioned Orange voters stay home? What about all the Western Ukrainians working abroad? Will their votes be lost? What if Natalia Vitrenko's pro-Russian extremists pass the barrier this time around?

Under the current proportional election system all these minor factors, play a very major role. When a ruling majority depends upon a just a few percentage points, even a small degree of falsification can tip the balance. Which is why it is again necessary to ensure a fair election is held.

Canada has committed to 60 election monitors this time around, a far cry from the 500 that were sent in 2004. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is once again sending its own monitoring mission. But the UCC has to deal with a case of election fatigue among many members of our community and is not putting its own expectation of the response it will get very high. After all, this is the third Ukrainian election in less than two years. Factor in the disappointment that many felt after the Orange forces failed to consolidate the gains of the revolution, then lost power altogether, and one can see why the enthusiasm has waned.

While this may be inevitable, it is also unfortunate. Russia is counting on Western apathy this time around and may use that opportunity to advance its own increasingly aggressive interests.

Western governments, Canada especially, and our community must watch the elections and subsequent developments with great vigilance. A Ukraine that is independent in fact as well as in name, is the one thing that stands between stability in Europe and a resurgent and expansionist Russian Empire.

Canadian Heritage heaps another indignity upon Mary

By Lubomyr Luciuk

We buried her under a maple. Seeing Mary's grave sheltered by a tree whose leaf symbolizes our country was comforting. Nearby stands a spruce. That evergreen would have reminded her of the boreal forest she knew as a young girl. Even though she was born in Montreal Mary was branded an "enemy alien" and transported north to the Spirit Lake concentration camp, along with the rest of the Manko family. Thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans like them were jailed not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from, who they were. What little wealth they had was taken and they were forced to do hard labour for the profit of their jailers. The Mankos lost something even more precious, their youngest daughter, Nellie, who died there.

Mary Manko Haskett passed away July 14, the last known survivor of Canada's first national internment operations. She was 98. For years she lent her support to the Ukrainian Canadian community's campaign to secure a timely and honourable redress settlement. Disappointingly, she did not live to see that happen, despite Stephen Harper's own words. On March 24, 2005 he rose in the House of Commons to support fellow Conservative Inky Mark's *Bill C 331 – The Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act*, saying: "Mary Haskett, is still alive.... I sincerely hope that she will live to see an official reconciliation of this past injustice." The Prime Minister might now ask the bureaucracy why his wish was ignored.

The government did, at least, send a representative to Mary's funeral, Conservative MP Mike Wallace, (Burlington) who read a prepared statement, subsequently added to the website of the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney: "We were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Mary Manko Haskett, the last known survivor of Canadian internment camps during the First World War and the postwar period. On behalf of Canada's New Government, I would like to extend my condolences to Mrs Haskett's family, as well as the Ukrainian-Canadian community. Born and raised in Montreal, Mary was six years old when she and her family were detained in the Spirit Lake internment camp. Despite advice from British officials that 'friendly aliens' should not be interned, Ottawa invoked The War Measures Act to detain 8,579 'enemy aliens' including Poles, Italians, Bulgarians, Croats, Turks, Serbs, Hungarians, Russians, Jews, and Romanians — but the majority (perhaps as many as 5,000) were of Ukrainian origin. Many were unwilling subjects of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and thus not 'enemy aliens' at all. For years Mrs Haskett and others argued that 'Canada's first internment operations' herded together individuals based on nationality — many of them Canadian-born — and compelled them into forced labour. Despite the original wartime justification for these measures, many were kept in custody for two years after the Armistice of 1918. We are all grateful for Mrs Manko Haskett's dedication to the cause of remembering and commemorating this important event in Canada's history."

Official condolences for those recently deceased, for example Bluma Appel and Ed Mirvish, can be found on the Canadian Heritage website. The innocuous text cited above wasn't included, however, being deemed "too political." And so yet another indignity was heaped upon Mary, posthumously. Remembering her means recalling what was done to her and by whom. That's a no-no. While this gaffe may be corrected, even if Mary wasn't rich or a patron of the arts, it's too late. We got the message.

Years ago Mary provided a prescription for the redress campaign. She insisted we should never demand an apology, or compensation for survivors, or their descendants. Instead we should ask, politely, for recognition and the restitution of what was taken under duress. Those funds, to be held in a community-based endowment, would underwrite commemorative and educational projects that, hopefully, will ensure no other ethnic, religious or racial minority suffers as Ukrainian Canadians once did.

While no survivors remain, and even their descendants are senior citizens, a new generation of Canadians of Ukrainian heritage took up Mary's cause nearly two decades ago, even though none of us had any ties to the victims. That changed on the day of Mary's funeral, when my mother and sister returned from western Ukraine. They knew about Mary but, being away, did not know she had died. They brought the news that my cousin, Lesia, had married Ivan Manko, himself distantly related to Mary's parents, Katherine and Andrew, whose graves are found in Mississauga's St Christopher's Catholic cemetery, not far from Mary's mound.

This crusade was always about righting an historical injustice and, in that sense, is political. It just got personal too.

Dr Lubomyr Luciuk is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (www.uccla.ca)

BSF clinging to Sevastopol while it can

By Vladimir Socor

(Jamestown Foundation)—Apparently expecting petrodollar-fed budgetary infusions, Russia's navy expects to reinforce its Black Sea Fleet with new units, beef up its Novorossiysk base on Russian territory, and attempt to cling to the Sevastopol base in Ukraine past the 2017 deadline. Such is the gist of remarks by the commander-in-chief of Russia's naval forces, Admiral Vladimir Masorin, on an inspection visit to Sevastopol and concurrently by Ministry of Foreign Affairs chief spokesman Mikhail Kamynin in Moscow.

On Aug. 2-3 Masorin introduced the newly appointed commander of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, Vice-Admiral Alexander Kletskov, to the Fleet's staff in Sevastopol. (Kletskov's immediate predecessor, Alexander Tatarinov, has recently been appointed deputy commander-in-chief of Russia's naval forces). Kletskov started his service in the Baltic Fleet on a minesweeper based in Tallinn in Soviet times, later rising to commander of the Baltiisk base in the Kaliningrad region and ultimately chief of staff of Russia's Baltic Fleet.

Speaking to the staff and then to journalists, Masorin stated, "I wish to underline that building up the Novorossiysk base does not mean that the [Russian] Fleet would leave Sevastopol." While a full-fledged naval base on Russian territory is indispensable to the fleet's development and operations, "not a single Russian ship will leave the Sevastopol main base" until 2017, he stated.

Masorin made clear that ships to be added to Russia's Black Sea Fleet would be based in Novorossiysk, not Sevastopol. Indeed, Russia can not do otherwise, because the 1997 basing agreements with Ukraine preclude reinforcing the Russian Fleet on Ukraine's territory. According to Masorin, Ukraine has most recently refused Russian requests to add a submarine to the Sevastopol base (where Russia has one operational sub). In recent years, Russia has unsuccessfully sought Ukrainian consent to adding surface ships and even land-based tactical aviation to the Russian forces in Crimea.

Partly for this reason, the Russian Navy is expanding the Novorossiysk base with a view to adding ships there. However, Masorin contrasted in his statement the limited space and difficult natural conditions in Novorossiysk with the "ideal natural conditions" in Sevastopol's bays.

Meanwhile, Russia claims a right to "rotate" armaments on its Sevastopol-based ships — that is, replace old weapons systems with newer ones. Masorin repeated this claim during his visit. The Russian side argues that the 1997 basing agreements do not explicitly prohibit equipment rotation. Ukraine insists that the agreements do not authorize modernizing the combat equipment of the Russian fleet.

Both Russia and Ukraine call for full and undeviating observance of the 1997 agreements, but attach different meanings of this phrase in some major respects. Crucially, Ukraine cites the 20-year time limit on the lease, calling for the Russian Fleet's complete removal from Sevastopol and handover of the base to Ukraine by 2017. Russia, however, hopes to take advantage of a clause that permits the prolongation of that term by mutual consent.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kamynin implied in a statement that the talks with Ukraine are only about continuing Russian use of Sevastopol, not about planning to move out in 2017. According to the ministry, "The purpose of talks is to ensure necessary conditions for the full-scale operation of the [Russian] Fleet. Russia would only discuss purely practical issues of the Fleet's operation, not any hypothetical political speculations." This stricture alludes to Ukrainian proposals to start planning in advance for the termination of the Russian lease in 2017 and relocation of the Fleet to the Russian coast. Moscow, however, would limit the discussion to the Fleet's "presence and functioning" in Ukraine (prebyvanie i funktionirovanie) —

Ukraine's elites remain above the law

By Taras Kuzio

(Jamestown Foundation)—Ukraine's orange elites are facing a growing scandal surrounding Yuriy Lutsenko, head of the pro-presidential Our Ukraine-People's Self Defense bloc (NUNS). Lutsenko allegedly lobbied on behalf of Ukrainian New Telecommunications (UNTC) when he was interior minister. Lutsenko's wife is UNTC's financial director, and the company was established in 2005 by members of Lutsenko's extended family from Rivne oblast. Lutsenko allegedly supported instructions to shift Interior Ministry cell phone contracts to UNTC.

The Lutsenko scandal suggests that Ukraine's ruling elites remain above the law.

Since Ukraine became an independent state in 1992, only three senior Ukrainian officials have been charged and sentenced, two in Germany (Viktor Zherdytskyy and Ihor Didenko) and one in the United States (Pavlo Lazarenko). No senior Ukrainian officials have ever been charged inside Ukraine, in part because they possess parliamentary immunity.

In a June 20 address to the country, President Viktor Yushchenko called upon parliament to revoke its right to immunity as a step toward "overcoming parliamentary corruption." He claimed that Ukraine's parliament was the world's most corrupt, a factor that negatively influenced the national interest and rule of law.

Yushchenko called for separating business and politics, saying, "People in big business should be separate from the political life of the country," due to potential conflicts of interest.

Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc have both stated their readiness to voluntarily forfeit their immunity. NUNS is collecting signatures to hold a referendum on ending immunity, claiming that corrupt businessmen run for parliament to hide from the law.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych criticized these calls for action and accused the president of "populism." He also pointed out that calls to revoke parliamentary immunity are regularly heard during election campaigns but quietly forgotten afterward.

As media restrictions have eased, the press has leveled accusations of abuse of office and corruption against the president's son and other orange leaders. Consequently, the orange camp has adopted a two-pronged standard response of denying the media's right to make such investigations and claiming that the accusations are part of a political conspiracy.

NUNS member Volodymyr Stretovych, head of the parliamentary committee to combat organized crime, has claimed that the latest allegations against Lutsenko are an orchestrated conspiracy against "one of the most popular leaders of the democratic camp." According to him, the accusations against Lutsenko are the criminal world's response to the prospect of losing parliamentary immunity.

However, ending parliamentary immunity is unlikely to remove Ukrainian elites' legal privileges for several reasons. First, Ukraine inherited this political culture of elites being above the law from the Soviet era. Second, there is also a close link, particularly evident among the orange national democratic camp, between elites and the preservation of Ukrainian statehood. Yushchenko and his allies who went on to establish Our Ukraine opposed efforts to impeach former president Leonid Kuchma over the murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze, as they believe that the president represents the state and any undermining of his position would thereby undermine the Ukrainian state.

Third, the elites enjoy a strong degree of mutual solidarity. When corruption accusations were made against Yushchenko's allies in September 2005 he agreed to launch an investigation, but he outlined its pre-determined conclusion by publicly declaring their innocence.

Two examples demonstrate the difficulty of breaking with the culture of elite immunity.

First, in 2005, Yushchenko bestowed Gongadze with the "Hero of Ukraine" title as he "gave his young life for our freedom and independence." But then 18 months later a presidential decree awarded a state medal to former prosecutor Mykhailo Potebenko, who reportedly covered up Kuchma's involvement in Gongadze's murder.

Second, Prime Minister Yanukovych has a criminal record. Yanukovych served two prison terms: in 1967-70 for theft and robbery and in 1970-1972 for the "infliction of bodily injuries of medium seriousness." There were reports that a Donetsk oblast court had allegedly annulled his two convictions in 1978, but the relevant documents were found to be forgeries executed when Yanukovych first became prime minister after 2002.

Yushchenko has defended his nomination of Yanukovych as prime minister in August 2006, claiming he had little alternative. However, Article 12 of Ukraine's 1993 law on State Service clearly states that persons with a criminal record cannot be appointed or voted into a government post. This seemingly would eliminate Yanukovych's eligibility to be prime minister or president. Polls in 2004 found that 60-69% of Ukrainians believed that a former felon should not be president.

The Lutsenko corruption scandal will tarnish the orange camp going into the Sept. 30 parliamentary elections. Lutsenko is close to Yushchenko, who is depending on him to improve the pro-presidential camp's results in the 2006 elections, when it obtained only 14% of the vote.

Based on similar cases, no charges are likely to be laid against Lutsenko, and the culture of elite protection will not change even if parliamentary immunity is removed.

BSF clinging to Sevastopol while it can

a phrase that recalls almost literally the Russian position during the negotiations with Georgia over Russian military bases in that country. Those negotiations lasted six to seven years (1999-2006) and the actual evacuation of the bases is taking another two years.

Ukraine-Russia negotiations on the Russian Fleet are ongoing in a Subcommission of the bilateral State Commission, which is theoretically chaired by Presidents Vladimir Putin and Viktor Yushchenko, but is dormant. The Subcommission meets periodically but inconclusively, both in plenary formats and in working groups dealing with the Russian Fleet's claims to land plots and property, competencies of law enforcement bodies (police, counterintelligence) of either side in the basing area, hydrographic equipment, lighthouses, on-shore communications stations, and navigational safety in the Black and Azov Seas. The Ukrainian side seeks restitution of many of those assets that the Russian fleet has appropriated against Ukrainian law or is using in contravention to the 1997 agreements.

The Subcommission is about to hold its sixth plenary meeting in Moscow. Apart from the on-shore property restitution issues, Ukraine urges an immediate start to joint planning for the Russian Fleet's removal in 2017, taking into account the complexity of this operation. The Ukrainian chief negotiator, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko, points out that relocating the Russian Fleet's 14,000-strong personnel and the vast stockpiles of equipment, as well as the handover of property to the Ukrainian side, would require a long time, necessitating a timely start of advance planning. Ukraine seeks to complete the Russian Fleet's evacuation by the stipulated deadline, when "not a single unit [of the Russian Fleet] should be left on Ukrainian territory."

The Russian side, however, avoids discussing that issue, biding its time and almost certainly hoping to pressure or cajole a future Ukrainian government into prolongation by mutual consent. Until now, all Ukrainian governments irrespective of political color have been holding firm on this issue.

Moroz sees snap elections a 'criminal adventure'

(RFE/RL)—Parliament speaker Oleksandr Moroz said on Aug. 2 that he does not expect any major changes in the alignment of parliamentary forces following the September 30 polls, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

"If the elections are held, the parliament's makeup will change by 10 percent, not more," he told journalists in Kyiv.

Moroz also noted that the early polls are a "criminal adventure initiated by the president."

"I regret giving support to this man in the presidential elections. In fact, he abandoned his promises after having won the elections," Moroz added.

He said he would not object if the new parliament initiated an impeachment of the president.

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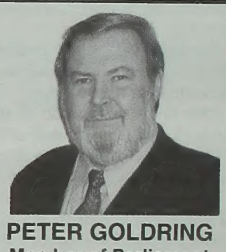

PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

HOW MUCH SUBSIDY IS NEEDED TO MAKE RENTAL HOUSING AFFORDABLE?

A concerning trend in Alberta is the ever increasing number of lower income workers, some making $15.00 per hour, that just can't find a home to rent at a price that they can afford. Meanwhile the ever decreasing remaining stock of entry level private sector rental units are being converted to condos at an alarming rate.

Because of the void of newly built affordable private rental housing, some have moved into non-profit housing such as that supplied by the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society. The question though is how much public money is needed and for how long to simply make rental housing affordable and to still allow necessary income for operating costs.

Private sector rental housing developers, the so-called 'for profit' sector, who could provide the same housing, are greatly disadvantaged competitively by the numerous public grants and financial advantages given to the so-called 'non-profit' groups which pays for their land and construction costs and further pays ongoing rent subsidies which tops up rents to market average rents.

To further give permanent property tax free status to certain non-profit organizations for otherwise fairly conventional rental housing further disadvantages the private sector and impinges on a city's bottom line taxation paid service base for fire and police services, etc, and seemingly is excessive given numerous other construction capital and operating grants.

Recently the City of Edmonton has recognized this inconsistency of taxation policy between similar rental housing providers and is asking for taxation equality, by requesting the payment of property taxes. The City after all has to provide services that property taxes should be paying for.

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ARTHUR WARING CA, CIRP

Communists in denial

By Neil Campbell, *What's On*

The Crimean Communist craze for moral relativism reached epic proportions last month when they announced plans to open a museum for victims of US imperialism while at the same time protesting against commemorating the millions of Ukrainians who died in the Holodomor orchestrated famines of the 1930s.

Crimean Communist Party figurehead Leonid Grach said the museum would consist of a permanent display in Simferopol and a mobile exhibition that would tour Crimea and "present the whole period, starting with the massacre of Native Americans, right up to racial discrimination in America, which continues to this day."

The move appears to be in direct response to the opening of the museum 'Victims of Communism Memorial' in Washington on July 12, where George W. Bush blamed the ideology for the deaths of 100 million people.

Communist Party activists also staged a protest in Simferopol against plans to commemorate the victims of the Holodomor famine in Ukraine in 1932-1933.

"All measures in Ukraine, initiated by President Viktor Yushchenko connected with the 75th anniversary of the so-called Holodomor do not, in reality, come from historical truth but are purely political speculation coming from the USA," communist leaders were quoted as saying.

The recognition of the Holodomor as genocide has been vehemently opposed by the Communist Party for decades, and their outspoken condemnation has reached fever pitch since the Verkhovna Rada passed a law last December officially recognising the famine as 'genocide against the Ukrainian people'.

174 workers flee phenal fumes in Poltava

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's major producer and exporter of iron ore, Poltava HOK, suspended production and evacuated workers Aug. 1 after release of an uknown gas at the production site, a company official said Aug. 2.

No workers were hospitalized, although some workers had reported minor sickness, the official said. A total of 174 workers were evacuated, the official said.

"We know what to do in situations like that," the official said. "We work closely with the staff of the emergency situations ministry."

The following day emergency and healthcare ministry personnel identified the mystery gas as phenol.

Poltava HOK, owned by Ferrexpo AG, produced 8.6 million metric tons of iron ore pellets, up from 7.8 million tons in 2005 and 7.4 million tons in 2004, supplied 50% of overall iron ore imports by Central and Eastern Europe last year.

The company's principle line of business is mining, processing and selling iron ore in the form of pellets for use in the production of steel. Its operations are vertically integrated as it processes all the iron ore it mines and produces substantially all the iron ore concentrate it processes.

The official said the company could not establish what caused the release of the unknown gas, and asked the emergency ministry personnel to investigate the matter.

The official said Poltava HOK has already been briefly suspending and then resuming production over the past week due to the release of the gas. The latest release of the gas is apparently the biggest over the period, the official said.

Canadian Idol runner-up Theresa Sokyrka joins the Lastiwka Choir.

CNUF celebrates 42nd with increased attendance

By Quin Greig, The Dauphin Herald

Canada's National Ukrainian Festival (held Aug. 3 – 5 at Dauphin, Man.) celebrated its 42nd year with increased attendance, great crowd response and new attractions that went over well with patrons.

Festival President Ryan Rauliuk is thrilled about the way things went at the festival this year.

"It's been a total success story," said Rauliuk. "I think that each and every day had it's own success in some way or another. The experience this year has been entirely positive."

Although exact attendance numbers are not yet known, Rauliuk says there was a definite increase compared to last years figures.

The festival had expanded its youth attractions this year, with a new and improved Kid's Corner, including activities such as face-painting, hair-braiding, cookie decorating and entertainment geared towards the kids.

"The additions to the kid's corner were very well received," said Rauliuk.

In addition to the great response to the youth activities, the grandstand performances remained crowd favourites this year at the festival.

"The grandstand performances always take it away," said Rauliuk. "I had several people come up to me on Friday and Saturday to tell me that the grandstand shows were the best they'd ever seen at the festival."

However, Saturday evening's violent downpour presented some issues for festival-goers and performers alike.

"The rain was definitely an obstacle," said Rauliuk. "But I was just blown away by people's patience and understanding."

Rauliuk experienced a very special moment backstage at the grandstand as people waited for the storm to recede.

"You know, people didn't see this, but the Lastiwka choir performed for the other entertainers while we were waiting around, you know, really keeping spirits high."

No amount of rain or bad weather could do anything to slow down festival attendees or performers, and Rauliuk stated that within an hour of the storm organizers had revamped the upper stage areas so the grandstand performances could go on, unhindered.

"It was wonderful how quickly everything came back together," said Rauliuk. "Everyone just chipped right in and helped out, and the show went on. That was definitely a personal highlight for me."

Rauliuk also stated that in addition to great Friday and Saturday performances, Sunday also saw great attendance.

"I think we had our best Sunday ever this year," said Rauliuk. "We hosted our pancake breakfast that day, and we served between 700 and 800 people."

Rauliuk also stated that there are plans for additions and changes to the festival next year, which he hopes will help get even more people involved in the celebration of Ukrainian culture and heritage.

"We definitely have a few things up our sleeve for next year," he said.

"We've been thinking about moving the parade to Friday so we can attract a few more people downtown, and bolster local businesses."

Rauliuk also stated that he hoped to focus more on Sunday as a big event day.

ALL PHOTOS — DAUPHIN HERALD

Dauphin's Zirka Dancers.

The Fetch family won the Director's Choice Award.

PHOTO S —MARCO LEVYTSKY

St. Nicholas Youth Choir

Ukrainian Pavilion again named best at Heritage Days

(UkrNews)—For the second year in a row, the Ukrainian Pavilion won the Nena Timperley Award for Excellence in Pavilion Management at Edmonton's Heritage Festival, held at Hawrelak Park Aug. 4-6.

This year's festival featured over 63 pavilions representing over 75 cultures from all over the world.

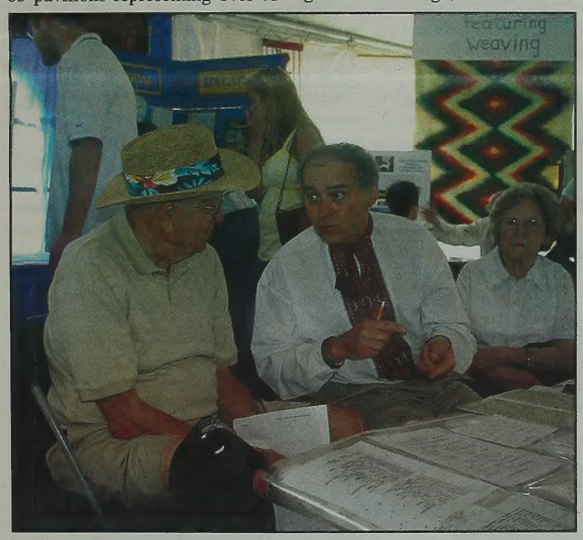
The Ukrainian Pavilion, sponsored by the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood, Edmonton Eparchy, under a committee chaired by Stan Kobylko, consisted of three components, the Ukrainian Showcase Program on the stage, the food kiosk and the cultural display.

The cultural pavilion served as a virtual information bureau for many people at the Festival, says volunteer Nadia Cyncar.

The feature for this year's cultural display was weaving. There were also displays on the 1932-33 Holodomor, bilingual education, pysanky, both the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League and the Orthodox Ukrainian Women's Association museums, finding your Ukrainian roots, the Peter and Doris Kule Centre of Ukrainian Folklore, which provided much of the material for the displays and information on Ukrainian organizations in Edmonton.

"We're trying to fit in all aspects of Ukrainian culture," cultural display coordinator Hope Ungarian.

Among this year's showcase performers were: the Troyanda Dancers from Grande Prairie; Sean Holowaty on Dulcimers/Cymbaly; the Cimarrons, a Ukrainian Band with Jim Yacey; Bandurist Charlie Sakuma; the Kvitka Red Deer Canadian Ukrainian Dance Club; Solo Dancer T. J. Fenton; the Dynamics, a Ukrainian Band with Stan and the Dymanics; Vic the Ukrainian Comedian from Red Deer; the St. Nicholas Youth Choir and youthful entertainers the Trixie Chicks.



Ludvik Marianych helps visitors find their Ukrainian roots at the culture pavilion.

Historic Ukrainian church burns

Hilliard mourns community institution

By Trish Audette,
The Edmonton Journal, July 30, 2007

Hours after their historic church was destroyed by fire Sunday, Hilliard residents visited the site to acknowledge their loss.

St. Demetro Ukrainian Catholic Church, north of the hamlet 70 kilometres east of Edmonton, was where many celebrated their first communions, their own baptisms and their children's baptisms.

"We got married there in '51," said Joe Lucyk.

He and his wife also received 25th and 50th wedding anniversary blessings at the small church. "It was a beautiful church," Lucyk said. "It was built a long, long time ago."

Fire officials with the nearby town of Mundare could not be reached for comment Sunday night.

But people in Hilliard believe the fire was touched off by a lightning strike to the church steeple after midnight.

"It's got to be lightning," Lucyk said, because it is believed the fire started at the top of the building.

"Nobody's going to climb on the roof and start a fire."

Residents said the fire smouldered slowly before neighbours noticed the smoke at about 7 a.m. By the time fire crews arrived at about 8 a.m., the building was fully engulfed in flames. It burned to the ground.

The church had taken about 10 years for the first Ukrainian settlers in the area to build. They finished in the late 1920s.

"Everybody built it, it was built from no money, (and) everybody contributed," said Elsie Mochnach. "Everybody's so touched, so heartbroken. It was a landmark. We took it hard. We went three times today to see it."

Lamont County touts itself as North America's church capital, with 47 churches to visit, including St. Demetro. The church was built in the classic Byzantine style.

It no longer had a resident minister, but mass was held there once a month in English and Ukrainian.

Mochnach said it could hold up to 120 people, and the pews were filled each month.

"It was a church for old-timers," Lucyk said. "Everybody's hit hard. The guy that looked after the church, he's still in shock."

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EDMONTON SCHOOL OF UKRAINIAN DANCE REGISTRATION

The Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance are accepting registrations for 2007-2008 season.

The School provides wood floors, barres, mirrors, dance floor covering, a quality Ukrainian dance program with classical and character ballet classes. Classes start from 3 and up. Also offering Adult's Classes.

Pre-register by phoning 424-6632 - 467-5019 or register September 11 or September 18, 2007 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Vohon Studio 10629 - 98 St., Edmonton.

VOHON
UKRAINIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Newsbriefs

Latest derailment raises safety concerns

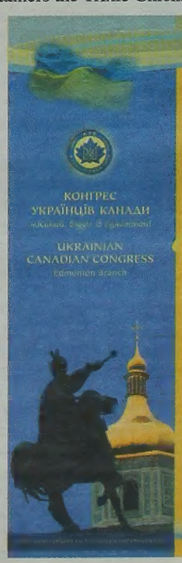
(Journal Staff Report)—A cargo train derailed near Ternopil late July 30 following an apparent mistake by railway staff during maneuvering in the latest of the crashes that have been plaguing the sector over the past several months. Six cargo cars overturned during the crash, while no one was injured during the accident, the regional branch of UkrZaliznytsia, the national railway company, reported July 31.

Government stalling on WTO accession

(Ukrainian Journal)—The government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych may be deliberately postponing Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization, a top official at President Viktor Yushchenko's office said July 26. Oleksandr Shlapak, Yushchenko's senior economic advisor, said the government failed to approve a number of regulations that open up the accession to the WTO before the end of the year.

Monaco establishes diplomatic relations

(Ukrainian Journal)—Paris has hosted a ceremony of exchange of notes on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Principality of Monaco, which has become the 172nd state to establish diplomatic relations with Ukraine. After the ceremony, Ukraine's Ambassador to France Kostiantyn Tymoshenko and Monaco's Ambassador to France Jacques Boisson held a meeting .



16 років незалежній Україні

Celebration will take place at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex at 9615 – 153 Avenue on Sunday, August 26, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.

16TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

Guest Speaker –
Consul General of Ukraine
Honourable Oleksandr Danyleiko

Головний промовець –
Генеральний Консул України
достойний Олександр Іванович Данилейко

Program will include:

- *Greetings*
- *Concert*
- *Barbeque*

Програма:

- *Привітання з нагоди свята*
- *Концерт*
- *Барбекю*

Квитки можна придбати в Українській книгарні, компаніях "Місто" і "Орбіта" та від членів Едмонтонської міської управи КУК.

Вступ: $10.00, $12.00 при дверях, діти до 12 років - безкоштовно.

Російський прапор на дні Льодовитого океану

Але чи це вже Росія? (Інтерв'ю)

Ірина Халупа, *Радіо Свобода*

Російські дослідники 2 серпня успішно досягли морського дна Льодовитого океану і встановили російський прапор прямо на дні моря під північним полюсом. Але чи може Москва справді вважати це своєю територією?

Заступник речника американського Держдепу, реагуючи на цей російський крок учора, сказав таке: «Я не певний, чи росіяни встановили там металевий чи то гумовий прапор, чи простирадло. Як би воно не було, це не має ніякого юридичного значення».

Подібною була реакція Канади. Міністр закордонних справ Пітер МакКей нагадав, що ми живемо не в 14 чи 15 столітті, коли можна було, встановивши прапор на якійсь території, вважати її своєю.

Отож кому належить ця підводна територія? Хіба Північний полюс не міститься в міжнародних водах? Експерт з морського права, співробітник Британського Національного Центру Океанографії Ліндзі Парсон каже, що є кілька претендентів на цю територію.

Л. П.: На сьогоднішній день існує 320-кілометрова економічна зона, в якій діють 5 країн, що межують з Льодовитим океаном: Данія, Росія, Канада, Сполучені Штати та Норвегія. Все, що лежить поза цією зоною (а це приблизно 300-400 тисяч квадратних кілометрів), стоїть під знаком запитання. Саме на цю територію можуть претендувати ці берегові країни.

Р. С.: Що значить встановлення російського прапора на дні моря під Північним полюсом юридично?

Л. П.: Відверто кажучи, це значить дуже мало, якщо говорити про юридичні претензії на морську територію.Однак спуститися на полярне морське дно — це велике наукове та технічне досягнення. Але проголошувати цю територію своєю — це щось зовсім інше. Є окремий морський юридичний процес із цих питань, це Конвенція ООН з морського права, яку ухвалили 1982 року. Росія цю конвенцію підписала. Отож вона мусить представити науковий аргумент на підставі цих критеріїв, які прописані в Конвенції.

Р. С.: Чи це уперше, що Росія намагається проголосити полярне морське дно своєю територією?

Л. П.: Вони це вже пробували 2001 року. Тоді Росія направила заявку комісії ООН, що розглядає саме ці питання. Однак, тоді росіянам не вистачало інформації,щоб обґрунтувати ці претензії. Їм було відмовлено. Тепер виглядає, що вони збирають додаткові дані, щоб знову дати заявку.

Р.С.: У світі існує лише 5 підводних мінісуден, які можуть дістатися дна Льодовитого океану. Росія має два, Франція, Японія та США — по одному. Чи держави, які хочуть висунути свої територіальні претензії щодо полярного морського дна, мусять також пірнати на дно моря, щоб зібрати необхідну інформацію?

Л. П.: Згідно з міжнародним правом, критерії, на підставі чого робляться такі територіальні заявки, не вимагають цього. Зразки можна зібрати іншим способом, спустивши ківш, який зачерпне ці зразки. Отож російська експедиція справді є фантастичним науковим досягненням, однак цього аж ніяк не потрібно, щоб обґрунтувати територіальні претензії.

П'ята річниця Скнилівської трагедії

Жива рана у серцях людей

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Близько 200 людей 27 липня прийшли на місце падіння військового літака СУ-27, щоб помолитись за душі загиблих. Рівно 5 років тому 77 людей, у тому числі 28 дітей, загинули під уламками літака під час проведення авіашоу. 12 людей стали інвалідами. Сотні людей, які бачили цю катастрофу, у психологічно важкому стані донині.

Близько 200 людей, близьких, друзів і просто львів'ян, кому не байдуже чуже горе, прийшли помолитись за душі загиблих. У каплиці відбувся молебень, священики освятили ікону Миколая Чудотворця, під покровом якого зображені фотографії невинних душ. Переважна більшість облич – молоді люди.

Молились і на місці падіння літака.

За долі секунд люди втратили синів, доньок, матерів, батьків, дідусів і бабусь. Загинуло подружжя Гомонів. Сина, якому нині 23 роки, виховує їхня мати.

«А як можна жити без дітей, коли їх ховаєш молодими. Це важко передати, той біль».

Жінка навіть не хотіла говорити про якісь потреби і матеріальні компенсації. Її серце розривається від болю. А онук психологічно досі почувається важко.

Біль потрохи втамувався, але психічні розлади й надалі переживає багато очевидців цієї трагедії.

Євгенія Якименко загинула під уламками СУ-27 у 15 років, єдина донька батьків. Їй сьогодні було б 20… Її сестра Олександра щороку приїжджає у день загибелі рідної людини з Латвії:

«Хіба це нормально, нам жодної матеріальної компенсації не виплатили. У якій державі це могло б таке бути? Навіть немає куди звернутись».

Під час трагедії були травмовані більше 290 осіб, 136 з них на тоді були неповнолітні. Згідно з рішенням Військового Апеляційного суду понад 500 людей визнані потерпілими внаслідок найбільшої в Україні катастрофи.

Постраждалі 5–й рік очікують на офіційне вибачення української влади. Вони домагаються і спеціального статусу, а близько 100 осіб звернулись із позовами у Європейський суд проти держави Україна.

(Потерпілі) провели аналогію з безвідповідальністю посадовців у фосфорній аварії, коли через недбалість і непрофесійність страждають невинні люди, а влада не робить висновки.

Військовий суд визнав винними у цій катастрофі 4 офіцерів, які сьогодні відбувають покарання у в'язниці. Перший пілот засуджений на 14 років, а справи 4 генералів - високих посадовців Міноборони далі на розгляді в Генпрокуратурі.

Стефан Козак втратив сина. Невдовзі від горя померла дружина.

Пан Козак очолює громадську організацію «Скнилівська трагедія».

«Другого березня 2006 року держава Україна зачинила перед нами двері, ухваливши рішення. Ми не маємо, де тут шукати справедливості. А тому і чекаємо на рішення Європейського Суду».

Чимало потерпілих протягом 5 років уже говорять, що Скнилівська катастрофа продемонструвала безвідповідальність посадовців у ставленні до власного народу.

Вони провели аналогію з безвідповідальністю посадовців у фосфорній аварії, коли через недбалість і непрофесійність страждають невинні люди, а влада не робить висновки.

27 липня 77 білих повітряних кульок злетіли у небо, як символ 77 невинно загиблих душ.

Корупція на польсько-українському кордоні

Єва Поштар, *Радіо Свобода*

Правоохоронці у південно-східній Польщі змагаються з організованими злочинними групами, які за хабарі дозволяють без перешкод везти контрабанду через пункт перетину Медика-Шегині на польсько – українському кордоні. Чи вплинуть корупційні скандали на роботу пункту Медика-Шегині?

Перших трьох порушників затримали на кордоні у квітні цього року безпосередньо при здійсненні так званого «контрольного вручення хабаря». Подібні заходи передбачає польський кримінальний кодекс.

Від того часу польські правоохоронці затримали у Підкарпатському регіоні близько півсотні осіб, яких підозрюють у співпраці зі злочинним угрупованням на польсько-українському пункті кордонного перетину Медика-Шегині. Це, перш за все, митники, але також співробітники польської прикордонної служби та подорожуючі, які вручали хабарі за безперешкодне перевезення контрабанди.

До того ще минулого тижня правоохоронці затримали заступника мера міста Перемишля, якого підозрюють у отриманні хабарів за допомогу особам, що прагнули дістати посади у Бещадському відділенні Прикордонної служби.

Речник Окружньої прокуратури міста Перемишля Даміан Мірецький каже, що про масштаб проблеми на кордонному пункті у Медиці свідчить велика кількість осіб, яких, за останньою інформацією, підозрюють у корупції. «На мою думку, патологія великого масштабу»,— каже Мірецький.

Затриманим митникам інкримінують багаторазове отримання хабарів у розмірах від близько чотирьох до 400 євро. Серед затриманих є й керівник зміни у перемишльській митниці.

Даміан Мірецький розповідає, що 33 митникам пред'явлене звинувачення у корупції та участь в організованій злочинній групі. 24 із них взяли під варту. У хабарництві підозрюють 6 співробітників прикордонної служби. До числа затриманих ще треба додати кількох подорожуючих.

Чи корупційна справа не зашкодить роботі польсько-українського пункту перетину кордону Медика-Шегині? Речниця митної служби у Перемишлі Малгожата Айсенбергер-Бляхарська каже, що згідно з польським законодавством, більшість із затриманих уже звільнені з роботи. Зараз намагаються поповнити штат, щоб кордонний пункт перетину діяв без перешкод.

Dr. Plokhii leaves CIUS for Harvard

(UkrNews)—After 11 years with the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, Prof. Serhii Plokhii is leaving for Harvard University.

His term at the U of A ended June 30 and his appointment at Harvard started last month. This fall he will begin classes.

Looking back at his years at the U of A, Dr. Plokhii says he is very grateful for the opportunity to write scholarly books.

" In Edmonton I was able to get involved in the research and writing to the extent that I was not able to do before. And I am very proud that my books were published by some of the leading academic publishing houses in the world, Including Oxford, Cambridge, University of Toronto Press, and Harvard. I can't imagine actually better conditions for research, for scholarly work, for writing, than the ones that were created here, at the University of Alberta, at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies," he said in a recent interview with Ukrainian News.

His first major publication was *The Cossacks and Religion in Early Modern Ukraine*, in 2001. The following year *Tsars and Cossacks: A Study in Iconography* published by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. In 2003, there was a collection of essays that Dr. Plokhii wrote together with Frank Sysyn, *Religion and Nation in Modern Ukraine*. In 2005, *Unmaking Imperial Russia: Mykhailo Hrushevsky and the Writing of Ukrainian History* was published by the University of Toronto Press. In 2006, *The Origins of the Slavic Nations: Premodern Identities in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus* was published by Cambridge University Press. His next project will be a collection of essays published by the U of T Press titled *Ukraine and Russia: Representations of the Past*.

Dr. Plokhii first came to the U of A in 1991 as a visiting professor to

Prof. Serhii Plokhii

the department of Slavic and East European Studies which no longer exists. He worked with that department and the Department of History until 1996 when he joined the CIUS, working mostly for the Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research. Their main project is the translation of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's multivolume *History of Ukraine-Rus'*. To date four volumes have been produced, and the fifth volume should be out at the end of this year or maybe early next year. During the last few months while Zenon Kohut was on sabbatical leave, Dr. Plokhii was the acting director of the Institute.

In the mid-1990's the late, Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw decided to donate his library and archives to the CIUS, which began of the Church Studies Program, later renamed the Research Program on Religion and Culture. Under this program, the CIUS published in Ukraine the proceedings of the First Council of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church that took place in 1921, co-sponsored the publication, in English, of a book by Dr. Bociurkiw on the liquidation of the Greek Catholic Church and then, with the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, published the translation.

At Harvard, Dr. Plokhii assumes the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professorship in Ukrainian History, one of three endowed chairs in Ukrainian studies at that institute.

Its staff works on a major long term project, the publication — in original, and also translation into English — works of Ukrainian literature up to the end of the 18th century. That project began with the celebrations of the Millennium of Ukrainian Christianity and was the brain child of Prof. Omeljan Pritsak who was the first director of the institute. "When Professor Pritsak retired my immediate predecessor at Harvard was Professor Roman Szporluk. His field of expertise was 19th and 20th century history; relations between nationalism and socialism, communism and socialism. He wrote a very well known and well-received book on Marx and nationalism and the national question. So, I really have to fill quite big shoes at Harvard in terms who my predecessors were," says Dr. Plokhii.

He is looking forward to the challenges, but notes that there will have to be some adjustments with the change, especially how it relates to students.

"Here we have, in terms of the student body, quite a few people who are of Ukrainian background, who went through bilingual schools, who went through Saturday schools. For this or that reason they are interested in Ukraine, or potentially are interested in Ukraine, in Ukrainian history, in Ukrainian politics, in Ukrainian literature. It is a different situation at Harvard. You have to get people interested in things Ukrainian. One has to develop courses in Ukrainian history that would appeal to a broader audience that would present Ukraine in a broader international context."

Third-year music student becomes newest member of the CPO

U of C student Adriana Lebedovich one of the youngest musicians ever hired for the position

(U of C)—Violinist Adriana Lebedovich will become one of the youngest members of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra when she takes her place as Section Second Violinist in their new season in September.

Lebedovich, 20, who recently completed her third year in performance studies in the University of Calgary Music Department, is one of the youngest musicians ever hired for a fulltime position at the CPO.

"It's indeed unusual for a musician to win a tenure-track position with an orchestra during their studies, or even before completing their post-secondary education," said Donovan Seidle, assistant concertmaster of the CPO and a U of C grad (BMus'99). "Instances of this are few and far between and with the musician market being saturated in a sense, examples of this are more and more rare. We all see her potential to be a good orchestral player, and the Calgary Philharmonic has had an influx of young musicians over the past couple years; Adriana will fit in nicely." He adds, "I'm es-

PHOTO — TOMY FIELD

Adriana Lebedovich will juggle her full time studies with her orchestral commitments with the CPO.

pecially excited to have a fellow U of C alumnus in the orchestra; it's a testament to the excellent teaching of the professors in the Faculty of Music."

Lebedovich will juggle her full time studies with her orchestral commitments, so she's preparing for the challenges ahead.

"It's very exciting. I love being on stage, and playing with the orchestra is an amazing experience," said Lebedovich. "I'm a little apprehensive about how I'll fit everything in, but I've got a supportive family and great friends who will help me keep things balanced."

Being on stage is not new to Lebedovich. She has performed with the CPO as a substitute violinist, playing at least eight concerts since April last year and she also performed as a soloist with the CPO when she won the U of C Concerto Competition in 2006. She is also a member of the UCalgary String Quartet. She started playing violin at age three and has competed in the Calgary Kiwanis Music Festival for over 14 years, winning numerous medals and scholarships. Lebedovich is also a Ukrainian dancer and musical performer with the Korinnya Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, taking part in jam sessions and cultural events throughout the year.

Lebedovich was originally a math student with a minor in music, when she began her studies at the U of C. She chose math with the intention of becoming a teacher. However, she soon discovered her first love was music, so she focused on playing violin. Lebedovich has studied under Department of Music Professor Edmond Agopian at the University of Calgary. She plans on completing her degree in 2008.

Sheptytsky Institute professor receives major research grant

(MASI Ottawa)—Fr. Peter Galadza, who holds the Kule Family Chair in Liturgy at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies in Ottawa, recently received a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in the amount of $116,850. Most of the money will go to hire research assistants in Ukraine. They will work with the Rev. Galadza during the next three years to produce a multi-volume descriptive catalogue of liturgical manuscripts in Ukrainian repositories.

"Resources like this for the study of Western worship have existed for decades," said the Rev. Galadza. "Finally, we'll have a similar resource that describes what East-Slavic liturgical manuscripts prescribe. Anyone wanting to know, for example, what a sixteenth-century codex from Kyiv contains regarding marriage, or funerals, or prayers for civil authorities, will be able to consult our catalogue – both in hard copy as well as on-line. And the catalogue will not only contain the original Slavonic wording of incipits (opening lines of prayers), but will provide a parallel translation in English."

Many of the liturgical manuscripts to be analyzed are in Kyiv and Lviv. But the project will also take Fr. Galadza and his team to cities such as Zaporizhzhia and Uzhhorod, not to mention Kharkiv and Odesa. "Unfortunately, however, many manuscripts that were produced in Ukraine are held in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Someday I hope to be able to continue the project by schematizing their orders of worship as well. This will certainly help anyone writing the history of worship in Ukraine — not to mention her history in other areas."

Fr. Stephen Wojcichowsky, the new director of the Sheptytsky Institute, commented on the awarding of the grant: "We are very proud of Father Peter's award as it recognizes his many years of scholarly accomplishments in the academic community. He is a rare individual of exceptional talent and the Sheptytsky Institute is blessed by his presence and his contribution to our professorial staff.

Fr. Galadza's ranking by SSHRC for overall research achievement was 5.5 out of 6. And the overall ranking was 18 out of 88 for all of Canada. In fact, Fr. Galadza was the only professor at Saint Paul University this year to receive a SSHRC research grant.

Fr. Peter Galadza

Three years ago the Rev. Galadza was a Harvard Fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Research Center in Georgetown. His graduate students have also gone on to win prestigious grants. He has held positions in several academic associations and is a popular speaker at Roman Catholic and Protestant gatherings. He also serves on two committees of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Fr. Galadza is the author of *The Theology and Liturgical Work of Andrei Sheptytsky (1865-1944)*, as well as editor-in-chief of *The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship* published by the Sheptytsky Institute. From 1994 to 2005 he was editor of *Logos: a Journal of Eastern Christian Studies*.

The Sheptytsky Institute is an academic unit of the Faculty of Theology of Saint Paul University. The Faculty has 28 full-time professors, three of which are Eastern Christians. Along with several sessional lecturers, these three form the core of the University's teaching staff for programs in Eastern Christian Studies from the undergraduate to the graduate level. Saint Paul University has the largest religious studies library in all of Canada, and is unique in the Western hemisphere in that it offers degrees in both Western and Eastern Christian studies. The work of the Sheptytsky Institute is supported by the Sheptytsky Institute Foundation.

The chair held by the Rev. Galadza is named in honour of Peter and Doris Kule, Ukrainian Catholic philanthropists from Edmonton, who have funded many other similar initiatives throughout North America including the Institute's Peter and Doris Kule Chair of Eastern Christian Theology and Spirituality, held by Rev. Andriy Chirovsky.

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Свірзький замок на Львівщині руйнується

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Мандруючи Львівщиною, кожен з галичан порадить відвідати 4 замки – Олеський, Золочівський, Свірзький і Підгорецький. Враження залишаться двоякі: захоплення красою природи довкола, історією, і смуток від того, що пам'ятки архітектури перебувають у жалюгідному стані.

Свірзький замок на початку 90-х був найкраще збережений і потребував з-поміж інших фортець найменшого капіталовкладення.

Трішки більше 20 кілометрів від Львова, серед мальовничої природи, на окремій горі, над 2 ставками розташований Свірзький замок, який називають найромантичнішим. Територія – понад 22 гектари землі.

Перша письмова згадка про Свірж датується початком XV століття. А збудований замок у середині XVI століття, фортеця належала родині Свірзьких. У XVII столітті, під час визвольної війни, замок не раз здобували козацькі загони. У 1648 році його спалили татари. Від первісної будівлі залишилися стіни нижніх ярусів.

Нинішній Свірзький замок належить середині XVII століття, тоді це було родинне обійстя графів Цетнерів. Вони перебудували замок, заклали парк зі ставками. Руйнувань фортеця зазнала у роки Другої світової війни. А реставрували Свірзький замок у радянські 70-80-ті роки, відтоді він належить обласній спілці архітекторів.

У роки незалежності України ним опікувалось лісниче управління. Останні 3 роки ніхто не виділяє грошей на утримання замку, навіть на зарплату охоронцеві.

Обласна адміністрація активно підтримує ідею концесії, тобто передачі пам'ятки архітектури в довготермінову оренду у приватні руки. Директор картинної галереї Борис Возницький і чимало представників творчої інтелігенції – проти, мовляв бізнесмен чи політик згодом приватизує замок і зруйнує історичну пам'ятку.

Тим часом, доки тривають конфлікти і непорозуміння, перлина архітектури руйнується і обкрадається. Жодного вказівника по дорозі до Свірзького замку немає, навіть у самому селі. Сільські хлопчаки пояснили таку ситуацію лаконічно: «Занедбали люди».

13-річних Андрія і Славка я зустріла біля замку. Верхи на конях вони очікували на туристів, які б мали бажання покататись. 5 хвилин коштує 10 гривень. Допоки охочих не було, ми спілкувались про те, яким би мав бути замок і що б це дало місцевим мешканцям:

– Ми возимо туристів, які нас просять. Кожної неділі і суботи їх тут багато.

Радіо Свобода: Як давно зачинений Свірзький замок?

– Я й не пам'ятаю. Дуже давно. Навіть сторожів тут нема, їм не хочуть платити і ніхто з села не хоче йти працювати.

Р. С.: Щоб для села дало, якби замок відновили і тут проводили б екскурсії?

– Платили б за оренду, сільська рада мала б гроші. Все мало б бути огороджено, замок мав бути поштукатурений.

– Я б проводив екскурсії, приводив людей.

Р. С. : А люди з села мали б роботу?

– Могли б прибирати, мали б роботу, звичайно.

Замків та музеїв серед переліку об'єктів, які можна орендувати, в законі «Про концесію» немає. Тому доля Свірзького замку, як і багатьох інших, у руках парламентарів. Але поправка до Закону може бути ухвалена, ймовірно, не раніше наступного року.

Пластуни беруть участь у посвяченні дубочка пластовим капеляном о. Андрієм Онуферком.

«Ой, дубе, дубе, кучерявий дубе»

Нащадка 400–річного запорізького дуба посаджено в Оттаві

Ю. Войчишин

Як багато людям відомо, на острові Хортиця, колишньої частини Запорізької Січі, ріс дуб, якому було більше ніж 400 років. Дуб був 36 метрів високий, а стовбур його був 6 з половиною метра в діяметрі. Кажуть, що запорожці під цим дубом писали свого «Листа запорожців до султана». В 1990 році, коли відзначували 500–річчя Запорізької Січі, ми мали нагоду відвідати його. На жаль, його вже нема.

Одначе, д–р Юрій Федак, науковець–спеціаліст у Міністерстві сільського господарства Канади, вже довгий час співпрацює з групою допомоги для розвитку сільського господарства України. Два роки тому, перебуваючи в Україні він роздобув жолуді славетного запорізького дуба. Пан Юрій приїхавши назад до Канади, посадив їх і виплекав до відповідного розміру. Одного з тих дубочків, він подарував парохові Українського католицького собору св. Івана Хрестителя в Оттаві о. Кирилові Микитюкові, а той вирішив посадити його на католицькій оселі. Тепер треба розказати про нашу славну оселю. Отож!

Цю оселю купив в 1957 році, вже покійний, о. Михайло Блаженко від римо–католицького Ордену Облатів у порозумінні з св. п. Єпископом Ізидором Борецьким. Епархія є її власником, а оттавська українська католицька парафія доглядає її з допомогою Лицарів Колумба св. Володимира, а користає з неї не тільки католицька, а часто й загальна українська громада. Положена над озером по квебецькій стороні, оселя має 180 акрів і від ранньої весни до пізньої осени там відбуваються пікніки, дитячі табори, парафіяльні та родинні свята та інше. Цього літа, в серпні, парафія відзначує там 50–ліття оселі.

На цій оселі щорічно відбувається також Свято Весни Пластової станиці в Оттаві. На Свято Весни цього року, 23–го і 24–го червня, о. парох Кирило Микитюк привіз малого дубочка, та пояснив пластунам його дивну історію. Він попросив пластунів посадити його у 50–ліття оселі, що так гарно приймає їх щороку. До цього зголосився юнацький гурток «Темні печери» 101–го Куреня ім. Володимира Івасюка, пластуни розвідувачі – Лев Дашко, Остап Войчишин і Адріян Янішевський.

Посадили вони дуба на площі де звичайно таборують пластуни. Це мало особливе значення для юнацтва, що цього року відзначує 95–ліття від заснування Пласту в Україні. Пластовий капелян пл. сен. о. Андрій Онуферко посвятив нащадка запорізького дуба, який був свідком славних історичних подій в Україні, а наш дубочок, і ми в це віримо, стане свідком такого ж буйного розвитку українсько–канадського життя.

Цікава виставка колекціонерів – «Українпекс 2007»

Оксана Бризгун–Соколик

В Торонті відбулася небудення виставка: «Українпекс 2007» в днях 16–17 червня в ґалерії КУМФ. Виставляли свої збірки колекціонери, члени «Товариства Українських Колекціонерів (Торонто)» і гості на спілку з «Міжнароднім Союзом Українських Філятелістів та Нумізматиків».

В суботу, о 1:00 год. пополудні відбулося офіційне відкриття виставки. Голова Товариства Славко Калин попросив до слова Президента Міжнародного Союзу д–р Інґерта Кузича з Спрінгфілд, Вірджінія. У короткому слові він привітав присутніх а тоді новий у Торонті та Канаді генеральний консул д–р Олександр Даниленко відкрив офіційно виставку. Висловив подив за різноманітність експонатів, та зусилля діяспорників зберігати та виставляти так професійно свої збережені «скарби». І справді, на виставці була не тільки різноманітна українська філателія та нумізматика, також конверти з різних часів нашої історії, на пр. чужі марки перебиті тризубами. Марки Карпатської України, часів нашої Незалежности 20–их років мин. ст., паперові гроші, таборова ДП пошта, екс–лібриси українських мистців, навіть спортові картки спортсменів українського походження. Кожна збірка – колекція була в рамках, де поміщувалося 16 сторінок одної тематики. На пр. одна рамка мала конверти з марками України, які проєктував один мистець – Василь Василенко. Там також був його проєкт марки генерала Шухевича запроєктована на 2007 рік. Годі все згадати, бо у цілій виставці не було повтореної теми. У виставці брали участь колекціонери з Торонта, Детройту, Вашинґтону та Мюнхену, Німеччина. Бажаючі колекціонери могли дати свої збірки суддям для оцінки. До різних катеґорій зголосилося 10 колекціонерів. Суддювали інтернаціональні судді Ендру Кронін та Френк Алусіо. У своїх заувагах після суддювання підкреслили високу якість виставленого і так на пр. перша нагорода, сказали, не була перша, а була «перша плас плас». Тема була «Львів – в поштовій історії за часів Австрії». Першу нагороду здобув д–р Інґерт Кузич.

Виставка була доказом не тільки можливістю великої різноманітности, але і багатством нашої історії та культури. Шкода, що студенти курсів українознавства та діти молодечих організацій не змогли відвідати виставку. Там наша історія була подана в дуже легко сприятливій формі!

Надіємося, що незадовго наші колекціонери приготують нову цікаву виставку! А ця виставка могла би відвідати інші наші осередки.

Wedding celebration theme of Toronto Ukrainian Festival

(UkrNews/Festival Committee)—Now in its eleventh year, the Toronto Ukrainian Festival (Formerly the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival) continues to be one of the most anticipated events of the summer season. The Toronto Ukrainian Festival will be presented during the Labour Day Weekend, Aug. 31 – Sept. 3, 2007 on Toronto's beautiful waterfront at Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay West.

The theme of the four-day is a Ukrainian Wedding Celebration and will feature a traditional wedding organized by Oleh Skrypka and the Hurtopravtsi Ensemble from Ukraine. This show has toured extensively throughout Ukraine to many accolades. The Ukrainian wedding is known as the richest among old Ukrainian traditions. It is a fun-filled event interwoven with ancient symbolic rituals. It will be presented once on Sept.1, and again on Sept. 2.

On Saturday night the concert stage will feature Skrypka and Le Grand Orchestra, who play a variety of musical genres: old hits of the famous glam-punk band "Vopli Vidoplyasova", French Chanson, well-known and forgotten Ukrainian folk songs and romances.

"It is certainly a privilege to have Oleh Skrypka as the main headliner of the Festival. He has made not only a significant contribution to the Ukrainian music industry but also played a leadership role in the revival of Ukrainian culture in Ukraine," says Anna Heychuk, Marketing and Program Director of the Festival.

The Studio Theatre will feature screenings of documentaries and films such as "Orange Chronicles", a powerfully moving and unique examination of Ukraine's Orange Revolution from the perspective of Ukrainian American filmmakers Damian Kolodiy and Peter Zielyk; "Acts of Imagination, a film directed by Carolyn Combs which explores how historical injustice parts people; recently released "Whisperers", directed by Andrea Odezynska of New York and Marusia Bociurkiw's film:" Flesh & Blood: A journey Between East and West; "A Man for all Canadians", a documentary about the life of Canada's Governor General Raymond Hnatyshyn produced by Iryna Korpan. In total there will be seven films presented.

The Festival will also showcase Ukrainian musical talents such as: Zubrivka, who will take you back to the way folk music once played in a rural Ukraine by their acoustic instrumentation and unique vocals; Klooch that will perform all original Ukrainian rock music; Michael Kostowsky, a versatile performer that plays a mixture of both traditional Ukrainian and contemporary tunes on the national stringed instrument of Ukraine — the Bandura; Oksana and the Band will inspire her listeners with an evocative voice and moving jazz renditions as well as with original songs of her own.; Zbruch that plays a vast repertoire and composes innovative new music; Pid Oblachkom who will create a joyful, nostalgic, and thrilling atmosphere with the sounds of their harmonious voices and jazzy tunes; Brian Cherwick of Edmonton will take guests on a fascinating excursion through the sounds of old Ukrainian musical instruments; Pryvit from Montreal will perform their unique mix of modern folk, contemporary and original music; Richka of Montreal, Zirka Band and Dunai Band will provide the music for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday night Zabavas (with dancing until 1:30 am.) Canadian Bandurist Capella, a choral group that combines the sound of a male chorus with the unique orchestral accompaniment of the multi-stringed Ukrainian bandura will perform Sept.2

Brian Cherwick will be among the performeers.

For those who enjoy traditional Ukrainian dance they will be delighted by the performances of Yavir Ensemble and Desna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Toronto and for those who enjoy modern dance the Festival will present Ancestral Voices, a new production from New York.

Parents can bring their children to the engaging Kids Zone, where author and illustrator Halia Dmytryshyn will read Ukrainian stories followed by related crafts. Children can also make pysanky (Easter egg writing).

The Visual Arts component will be dedicated to the wedding theme featuring exhibits of wedding cloths (rushnyky), costumes, wedding headdresses, videos and photographs presented by St. Vladimir Institute and the Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography, the Peter and Doris Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore of the University of Alberta. This will be presented in the Marilyn Brewer Gallery and the Loft.

Festival-goers can also experience delicious traditional Ukrainian food through a variety of food demonstrations and classes by Oxana Iakovtchouk and Bohdan Byenko of Natalie's Kitchen, and Oryst Pidzamecky of Oryan Catering. This will be held in the bright Lakeside Terrace kitchen facility.

A new feature at this year's Festival is a Boat Cruise on Lake Ontario Sept.1 from 5-8 pm. The three hour cruise includes music and dinner. Tickets are available for purchase at Ukrainian Credit Unions in the Bloor West Village as well as at West Arka.

Culture in Action will be held in the Lakeside Tent and will feature demonstrations by artist Pavlo Lopata — Icon painting; Hryhory Dyczok, Maria Steventon and Doris Cherkas — pysanky; Olia Harasym-Gerdany and bandura playing demos.

There will also be an array of interesting kiosks featuring traditional, modern or innovative Ukrainian cultural goods, products and services.

Baloha says Yanukovych to use 'administrative resources'

(RFE/RL)—Presidential Secretariat head Viktor Baloha alleged on August 6 that the cabinet of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych is going to use administrative levers — or "administrative resources," as such levers are popularly called in Ukraine — in promoting candidates of the ruling Party of Regions in the early parliamentary elections set for Sept. 30, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

"Following the will and the blessing of the head of government, the first hundred candidates on the election list of the Party of Regions, apart from himself, include some 20 deputy prime ministers, ministers, and deputy ministers.

Nothing has been said about their going on leave, which prompts the conclusion that the party counts on an unlimited use of administrative resources [in the election campaign]," Baloha said.

Baloha recalled that Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych demanded that the government of former Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov resign during last year's parliamentary election campaign.

"Instead [of admonishing the cabinet of ministers], Mr. Baloha, for instance, could dissuade the president from participating in the convention of a particular political force, let alone from making a speech there, if the president is a democrat and a president of the entire country," Regions lawmaker Hanna Herman replied to Baloha's allegation later that day.

President Viktor Yushchenko delivered a speech at the election convention of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc Aug. 7

Yaremko exhibit opens in Toronto

By Halia Sluzar

The long awaited new exhibit at the Ukrainian Musuem of Canada, Ontario Branch in Toronto was officially opened on June 29. Approximately 100 interested guests filled the theatre in St. Vladimir Institute to hear details about "At Home with Heritage", the John and Mary Yaremko Collection. Yvonne Ivanochko, president of the museum, welcomed Archbishop Yuri, Right Rev. Bohdan Sencio and all the guests. Halia Sluzar introduced the main speaker, William Sametz who because of his years of close association with Yaremko, gave a very interesting review of the Yaremko years. Following this Sluzar introduced the very talented curator of the exhibit, Daria Diakowsky who almost single handedly staged this exhibit. She spoke in detail about the exhibit.

On entering the museum one's attention is immediately captured by the huge portrait of Yaremko in the centre of the main wall. To the right of the portrait hangs a winter scene by Mykola Hlushchenko. Two smaller Hlushchenko paintings are on the far left.

There is also a display featuring a small burled maple table and two matching chairs, all standing on a tiny Persian rug. On the table are two place settings of china set on cross-stitch embroidered place mats and serviettes as well as two silver candlesticks. A framed photograph depicts the same scene in actual life.

In front of the portrait is a chair presented to Yaremko by Parliament and a miniature table upon which is a photo of Mary Yaremko wearing a bright pink cape, looking up at this same portrait, her black gloved hand raised toward it. On the chair is the actual pink cape, the long black gloves and black evening bag.

As well there are wall showcases, one on the north wall and the other on the south wall. The case on the north wall features a long white embroidered Sorochka which belonged to Mary Yaremko's maternal grandmother as well as a group of very old family photos including the wedding photos of the Materyns, Mary Yaremko's parents. On the south wall the case holds a sorochka belonging to Mr. Yaremko's maternal grandmother and family photos. He had nine siblings.

Other showcases outline Yaremko's career in parliament. One vertical showcase has a beautiful Icon with attached lamp. In this same showcase there are eight black bibles on which Yaremko was sworn in for his various positions in Cabinet. The last four bibles are in the Ukrainian language. Yaremko served in parliament for twenty-four years from 1951 - 1974, and held many cabinet posts such as: Minister Without Portfolio, Minister of Transport, Secretary and Registrar, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Citizenship, Minister of Public Welfare, Minister of Social and Family Services, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Citizenship, and Solicitor General.

One of the two horizontal showcases displays the numerous medals received by Yaremko. Some of these are from Ukrainian organizations and others are from Hungarian groups. The Ukrainian government presented Yaremko with its highest award — the St. Volodymyr Medal (1989). There are many medals from the Hungarians which shows their gratitude and esteem for Yaremko for all his help when he facilitated their immigration to Canada after Hungary was invaded by Russian Soviet forces in 1956. A second horizontal showcase contains Mary Yaremko's Ukrainian headdress and some of her jewellery including the medal and a small diamond pin presented to her by Queen Elizabeth.

On display are paintings by the well known Ukrainian sculptor Archipenko, a reproduction of one his sculpted figures, a print of a William Kurelek Icon and a glass painting by Yaroslava.

Unfortunately, Mary Yaremko didn't live to see this exhibit because she died March 28, 2005. However a spry John Yaremko is still interested in everything. He visited the exhibit before the opening and said he was very pleased with everything that he saw.

Poetic Moods a welcome new recording

By Anna Ferenc

Poetic Moods is the title of a debut CD released recently by Toronto pianist Maria Dolnycky. Its content samples nearly a century of solo piano music by Ukrainian composers Vasyl Barvinsky (1888-1963), Yuri Ishchenko (b. 1938), Viktor Kosenko (1896-1938), Borys Liatoshynsky (1895-1968), Levko Revutsky (1889-1977), Ihor Shamo (1925-1982), and Valentyn Sylvestrov (b. 1937). Although each of these composers has made significant contributions to the development of Ukrainian music within the European classical tradition and some have developed international recognition, their compositions are not familiar to North American audiences and are rarely performed. From this perspective, Dolnycky may be commended for her efforts to increase our exposure to the work of some of Ukraine's most talented musicians of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Among the earliest works featured on the recording are piano miniatures by Barvinsky and Kosenko. Barvinsky's Prelude in G major (1908) and Song (1911) illustrate his penchant for folk-like melodies, impressionistic gestures, and an endearing neo-romantic harmonic idiom. Kosenko's Mazurka Op. 3 No. 1 and Consolation Op. 9 No. 1 date from 1918 and 1921 respectively and are written in a lyrical romantic idiom reflecting the styles of Chopin and Liszt.

The tone for the CD is set by its opening track, Prelude Op. 44 No. 2 by Liatoshynsky, which is followed by two compositions by Revutsky, Waltz and Two Preludes Op. 7. Composed in 1943, Liatoshynsky's Prelude features a lyric though melancholy Lydian melody supported by a haunting accompaniment that relies on exposed perfect fifths. The Revutsky pieces are much earlier compositions. Waltz was written in 1908-09 (at the same time as Barvinsky's Prelude) and is played crisply and clearly by Dolnycky. The 2 Preludes date from 1918 and 1921 respectively (about the same time as the Kosenko pieces) and feature more technically demanding passages and dynamic lyricism in the style of Rachmaninoff. Dolnycky negotiates the virtuosity of both Preludes cleanly and expressively.

Shamo, Sylvestrov, and Ishchenko are members of the next generation of 20th-century Ukrainian composers and all have connections to Liatoshynsky. On this recording, Liatoshynsky's influence is most readily apparent in Shamo's Prelude No. 9 written in 1962. Dolnycky plays this piece with much rubato, but one can hear reflections of the earlier Lyatoshynsky Prelude through the continuous elaboration of a short melody that is often hauntingly supported by exposed, hollow-sounding fifths. It is followed by Sylvestrov's Piano Sonata No. 1 dated 1972, which is a challenging two-movement composition expressing somberness and a contemplative quality through a deliberately limited dynamic range.

The gems on this CD are world premiere recordings of two compositions by Ishchenko. The disk takes its name from the first composition entitled "Poetic Moods, Book 1", which was written in 1981 and consists of 7 short movements that are tonally and rhythmically experimental. The second work was composed recently in 2001 and is titled "Four Waltzes and Just a Touch of Chopin". Each Waltz is written in a unique post-tonal language and quotes brief passages directly and unexpectedly from well-known Chopin Waltzes. The result is an amusing experience of the classical canon within a current post-modernist context.

Despite the cross-section of compositional styles that it samples, *Poetic Moods* is a remarkably unified CD whose overall tone is contemplative and subdued. Dolnycky has chosen this repertoire with care. Her performances are musically expressive and thoughtfully presented conveying a deep connection to this music and enticing her listeners to experience the poetry within it. Informative program notes by Wasyl Sydorenko complement the recording.

Klitschko out of campaign

(Ukrayinska Pravda/UkrNews)—Kyiv City Councillor Vitaliy Klitschko will not take part in the early elections to the Verkhovna Rada as a candidate, his press service reports.

"My name is not included onto any of election lists as I am not striving to become a MP. This does not correspond to my actual plans and aims as well as my character. I have a goal ahead. I want to make Kyiv a prosperous city," he was cited as saying.

According to the release, Klitschko's bloc calls for of all responsible people regardless of their political leaning to unite with the goal to make Kyiv a cultural and economic centre of Eastern Europe.

Klitschko is convinced that his political force is able 'to change the situation for the better in order that the capital's level of development should meet European standards'.

It was previously reported that former heavyweight champion Klitschko might run on the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense election list.

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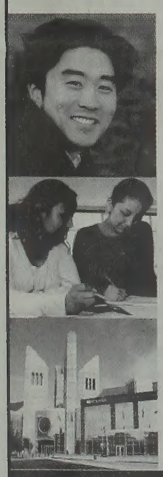

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Fifa considering regional leagues for East Europe

Sports

(What's On)—Last month saw many of Eastern Europe's footballing bigwigs gather for a conference in Neuchatel, Switzerland to discuss the idea of creating international super leagues incorporating the top sides from the domestic leagues of the region. The initial focus for this novel idea is, perhaps unsurprisingly, the former Yugoslavia, where six former republics now have their own leagues and where a merger already exists incorporating the top basketball teams of the region. If successful the move could be replicated to boost the ailing domestic game throughout Eastern Europe and bring increased competitiveness instead of the current domination of individual leagues by a handful of big name clubs. The downside is that for the scheme to work any regional league would have to offer Champions League places at the expense of the various national leagues, but while former UEFA president Lennart Johansson was a consistent opponent of anything that even hinted at damaging individual leagues, new UEFA supremo Michel Platini has made it clear that one of his major objectives is to narrow the gap between Eastern and West European football, and he is thought to be in favour of the idea of regional leagues if it will help create some sort of parity.

The concept of regional leagues raises all sorts of interesting possibilities for Ukrainian football, where the top flight suffers from low crowds, accusations of widespread corruption and the unassailable dominance of the country's top two sides, Dynamo Kyiv and Shakhtar Donetsk. Entry into an East European league alongside the top club sides from, for example, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic would create enormous interest in the game and also serve to bring Ukraine ever closer to the European family of nations. The other option, of Ukraine entering into a regional league with Russia, Belarus, and perhaps sides from the former Asian Soviet republics, would surely be too politically sensitive and offer too many echoes of the old Soviet league to warrant serious consideration.

300 athletes to participate in Olympics

(Ukrainian News Agency/UkrNews)—Three hundred Ukrainian athletes will participate in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, says the press service of the Family, Youth, and Sports Ministry.

Family, Youth, and Sports Minister Viktor Korzh announced this at a meeting with an adviser at the Chinese embassy in Ukraine, Aug. 7.

Korzh also talked about opening a Ukrainian House to better familiarize the people of China with the culture and achievements of Ukraine.

He praised the progress of preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games and wished China success.

As earlier reported, the Family, Youth, and Sports Ministry urged the Cabinet of Ministers in February to increase funding for preparation of athletes for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing by UAH 9 million to UAH 130 million in 2007.

At the time, the Family, Youth, and Sports Ministry predicted that 240 Ukrainian athletes would qualify for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

A total of 245 Ukrainian athletes participated in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Ukrainian athletes won 9 gold, 5 silver, and 9 bronze medals at those Games, finishing 12th in overall team standings.

Voronin shrugs off Shevchenko strife

By Nick Smith, *Liverpool Daily Post, July 31, 2007*

Andriy Voronin is determined not to have the same problems his international strike partner Andriy Shevchenko had in adapting to English football.

Shevchenko scored just four times in the Premier League last season after his £30million move from AC Milan to Chelsea last summer.

But Voronin, who joined Liverpool from Bayer Leverkusen on a free, has tipped the man he partnered up front for Ukraine in the 2006 World Cup to bounce back and show his class in the new campaign.

And he insists that Shevchenko's disappointing debut season in England is irrelevant to his own chances of settling in to life at Liverpool.

"The problems Shevchenko has had have not discouraged me from coming to Liverpool," said Voronin. "Just because he did not perform as well as he might have done did not have an effect on me.

"I spoke to him about coming to Liverpool and he remains one of the great strikers in Europe.

"He didn't perform as well as he was expected to last season, but he played in Italian football for seven seasons with AC Milan and that league is totally different to English football.

"Maybe he just needed a little bit more time to get used to the English style but think he will do better this season because he is a goalscorer."

Voronin thinks his own chances of adapting and thus breaking into the Liverpool forward line will be helped by his own background.

The 26-year-old faces stiff competition from existing forwards Peter Crouch and Dirk Kuyt as well as new boys Fernando Torres and Ryan Babel.

But he feels his former Bayern team-mate Dimitar Berbatov showed at Tottenham last season how quickly the transition from Germany can be made.

"Berbatov did well and he came from German football, which I would say is more similar to England," added Voronin. "I have studied English football and think that there are many similarities with the game in Germany. So I hope that arriving here from Bayer Leverkusen will help me.

"I am not just here to make up the numbers — I think one of my biggest qualities is my strength of character.

"I want to start as many games as possible and I think the competition here will help me."

Mexico striker Castillo set to join Shakhtar

Mexico striker Nery Castillo is set to join Ukrainian club Shakhtar Donetsk, reports The Associated Press.

Castillo, 23, traveled to Ukraine on July 30. Greek media reported that Shakhtar had offered US$21.8 million to break Castillo's contract with Greek champion Olympiakos which ends in 2010.

The reports said Castillo was due to sign a four-year contract with an annual salary of over $2.7 million.

Olympiakos has not made any comment on the reports.

Castillo scored four goals to help his country finish third in the Copa America which ended earlier this month. Brazil won the tournament held in Venezuela.

After returning to Greece, Castillo said he had failed to successfully re-negotiate his contract with Olympiakos, where he has played for seven years.

"It was my wish to stay at Olympiakos ... but I did not hear what I expected to hear from them," Castilio said earlier, confirming transfer interest from Shakhtar and England's Manchester City.

Castillo helped Olympiakos clinch its 10th league title in 11 seasons, scoring 12 goals.

Shakhtar have also signed Brazilian defender Ilsinho from Sao Paolo on a four-year, $15 million contract with an option that it could be extended for one more year.

Dynamo slips to 14th

Ukraine's Soccer Champions Dynamo Kyiv slipped to an unfamiliar 14th position with only three points from their opening four matches after a 3-1 home defeat Aug. 4 to leaders Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, the solitary team with a 100 percent record, reports Reuter

A Sergey Samodin brace late in the first half and a third by Andrey Vorobey shortly before the hour gave Dnipro the win after Dynamo had taken an early led through former Tottenham and Ukraine striker Serhiy Rebrov.

Shaktar Donetsk stayed second, two points behind Dnipro, after Brazilian substitute Evaverson Brandao scored an 82nd minute winner for a 1-0 victory at Zakarpattya Uzhhorod.

Shelton announces completion of Zhoda acquisition

Business

(UkrNews)—Toronto-based Shelton Canada Corp. on Aug. 1 announced that it has received TSX Venture Exchange final acceptance for and has finalized Shelton's purchase of all of the issued and outstanding shares of Zhoda 2001 Corporation ("Zhoda"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Kroes Energy Inc., as previously announced on April 2.

Zhoda owns a 45% interest in Kashtan Petroleum Inc., a limited liability company, which operates a joint venture oilfield exploitation and development in the Lelyaki oil fields in Ukraine and has a current net production of approximately 275 bbls of light oil per day.

The most recent engineering report dated Dec. 31, 2006 prepared by Calgary engineering firm Petroglobe (Canada) Ltd. has estimated the net proven reserves of Shelton/Zhoda to be 5.32 mm bbls and the net proven and probable reserves are estimated to be 8.7 mm bbls.

In consideration for this acquisition, Shelton paid Kroes a total of $4,927,753 as follows: (a) $1,000,000 paid by cash; (b) $3,498,753 by issuance of 6,997,507 common shares of Shelton; and (c) $429,000 by way of transfer of Shelton's only remaining western Canadian oil and gas interests. Shelton received TSX Venture Exchange acceptance for a private placement of 4,000,000 units at a price of $0.25 per unit for gross proceeds of $1,000,000 as announced on July 19, 2007 to assist with completion of the transaction.

Zenon Potoczny, President of Shelton, said: "We are very pleased with the completion of this transaction which will further enhance Shelton's business plan and its growing inventory of projects in Ukraine. We are looking forward to future new drilling and rehabilitation of existing wells on this field."

The common shares issued in connection with this transaction are subject to a restricted period expiring Nov. 19.

Following completion of this transaction Shelton will continue as a junior oil and gas company listed on the TSX Venture Exchange engaged in its Ukrainian, Azov Sea and Black Sea projects.

Russia-Ukraine pipeline conflict resurfaces

By Roman Kupchinsky

(RFE/RL)—With the December deadline for signing a new gas-supply contract approaching, Ukrainian and Russian officials have been holding preliminary meetings to sound each other out.

As in past negotiations, the issue is not only the price Ukraine will pay for gas in 2008, or how much Russia will pay Ukraine in transit fees — the major question is about who will control the vital Ukrainian gas-pipeline network to Europe, an asset that Russia's state-owned gas monopoly, Gazprom, has persistently sought to obtain.

Speaking at a press conference with visiting Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych in Moscow on June 23, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov referred to the construction of the Bohorodchany-Uzhhorod pipeline, a partially completed 240-kilometer extension of the planned Novopskov-Uzhhorod main-trunk pipeline that would transit natural gas from eastern to western Ukraine. The extension has a projected annual capacity of 19 billion cubic meters of gas and will cost about $560 million.

Ukraine views the completion of this extension as a strategically important project that would increase the throughput capacity of its gas-transportation system to Europe.

However, in April, the deputy chairman of the management committee of Russia's state-controlled gas monopoly Gazprom, Valery Golubev, said that construction of the extension was unjustified because there is no demand in Europe for additional Russian gas.

And in a revealing statement made in May, Golubev said that "if politicians make a decision to establish closer economic ties between our countries, this will guarantee lower gas prices. However, if the politicians decide to separate these ties, then the price of gas for Ukraine will be same as for Germany. Does Ukraine really want this? I want to stress that Russia does not need this."

In his June 23 comments, Fradkov downplayed Golubev's threats. "The issue of the Bohorodchany-Uzhhorod pipeline is one of the links in the broader question of deeper cooperation between the countries in the gas sphere," he said. "In this context we are trying to generate interest in Russian companies, particularly Gazprom, to take part in the Ukrainian gas-transportation system."

Fradkov no doubt knew that it would not require a great deal of effort to interest Gazprom in gaining some control over Ukraine's pipeline system, but by linking the completion of Bohorodchany-Uzhhorod to that issue he pushed the Ukrainian side into a corner and set the stage for a new confrontation.

Yanukovych was noncommittal in his response. He said the project has very good prospects and that a decision would be reached this autumn, adding that Ukraine would take into consideration its own interests as well as those of Russia, Central Asian states, and European consumers.

The joint venture to build the Novopskov-Uzhhorod pipeline, at a cost of $2.2 billion-2.8 billion, was formed in 2004 between Naftohaz Ukrayiny and Gazprom. It was originally scheduled to be completed by 2009, but construction was postponed from 2005 to February 2006. Since then little, if anything, has been done.

The pipeline, if and when completed, would give Ukraine the capacity to increase by 25 percent its flow of Russian gas to Europe — a significant money-making proposition for Kyiv.

Ukrainian planners also believe that Novopskov-Uzhhorod would insure the country against breakdowns of the aging Urengoi-Uzhhorod pipeline, parts of which have been in operation for 20-30 years.

Fradkov has not been the only one to set the stage for confrontation. In February, Russian President Vladimir Putin stirred up a hornet's nest when he publicly announced that the Ukrainian government had approached Russia with the idea of unifying the countries' respective gas-pipeline networks.

Putin hailed the overture as a "revolutionary development" that was in the "interest of both countries."

In response to Putin's announcement, the Ukrainian parliament almost unanimously passed legislation forbidding the sale or transfer of ownership of Ukraine's trunk gas pipeline to another country. An investigation was also launched to determine just who may have been responsible for making such proposals.

Ukrainian leaders have not responded to Fradkov's latest offer, but it is becoming evident that Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko is willing to counter Russia's latest attempt to gain influence over Ukraine's gas pipelines by initiating an investigation into the operations of UkrHazEnergo, a joint venture between Ukraine's Naftohaz and RosUkrEnergo, the Swiss-based middleman which holds the monopoly for providing Ukraine with gas from Central Asia.

UkrHazEnergo's participation in the Ukrainian domestic gas-distribution system was essentially forced upon Ukraine by Gazprom during the January 2006 gas dispute with Russia.

Addressing a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council in June, Yushchenko complained about the role played by Ukrainian businessman Dmytro Firtash, whose company Centragas owns 50 percent of RosUkrEnergo, (the other 50 percent is owned by Gazprom) and thereby exerts substantial influence on UkrHazEnergo's activities.

According to a confidential memo summarizing this meeting, Yushchenko stated that the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) believes that UkrHazEnergo's monopoly on gas distribution to industrial clients in Ukraine could be contributing to Firtash's growing presence in Ukraine's chemical industry.

Firtash owns two important chemical plants in Ukraine — an industrial soda plant in the Crimea (Crimea Soda) and a fertilizer plant (Rivnoazot). In addition he controls Crimean Titan, a titanium plant.

Yushchenko also expressed alarm about a growing conflict between UkrHazEnergo and the Industrial Union of the Donbas (IUD) over the price UkrHazEnergo was charging the IUD for gas. The implication being that UkrHazEnergo was price gouging the IUD in order to enrich Firtash and Gazprom.

In 2006 Firtash received $365 million from RosUkrEnergo as his share of 2005 profits. Some in Kyiv believe this to be an extravagant sum for a principle of a company that does not own any gas fields, pipelines, or other assets. By comparison, Gazprom Chairman Aleksei Miller receives a salary $1.4 million in addition to $1.4 million in stock options, according to the Russian website gazeta.ru

EBRD pledges $507 mln for Chornobyl shelter

(Ukrainian Journal)—The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development has pledged $507 million to help Ukraine build a new shelter for the Chornobyl reactor, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident, The Associated Press reported Aug. 6.

Chornobyl's reactor No. 4 exploded and burned on April 26, 1986, spewing radiation over a large swath of the former Soviet Union and much of northern Europe. An area roughly half the size of Italy was contaminated, forcing the resettlement of hundreds of thousands of people and ruining some of Europe's most fertile farmland.

A protective "sarcophagus" that was hastily erected over the reactor is now crumbling, and a $1.2 billion project to replace it remains on the drawing board. Ukraine has repeatedly asked for money from the European Union and other Western sources to fund a new shelter.

More than $600 million has already been pledged by 28 donor governments.

Lyudmila Shcherban, an Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman, said the money will go toward the new shelter as well as freezing the reactor permanently to prevent further ecological damage, AP reported.

Thirty-one people died within the first two months from illnesses caused by radioactivity, but there is heated debate over the subsequent toll. A report from the U.N. health agency last year estimated that about 9,300 people will die from cancers caused by Chornobyl's radiation. Some groups, such as Greenpeace, insist the toll could be 10 times higher.

The EBRD is the largest financial investor in Ukraine, having invested in 77 projects in sectors ranging from banking to infrastructure to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Ukraine to push for higher transit rates

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine may push for higher transit rates for Russian natural gas supplies to Europe, a deputy secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council said Aug. 6.

"I believe the issue of reviewing gas transit rates can and must be raised now," Yuriy Prodan said. "After a statement made today that gas prices for Ukraine will increase by 10%, transit terms must also be reviewed," he said.

Prodan said the gas supply scheme did not satisfy Ukraine, but that gas supply terms were fixed in an inter-governmental agreement until the end of 2007.

Business Briefs

Shell to join gas search

(Ukrainian Journal)—Shell Exploration and Production and UkrGazVydobuvannya, or UGV, Ukraine's largest natural gas producer, will soon join operation in searching for natural gas in Ukraine, UGV said Aug. 3. The companies will focus on exploration of Shebelinske and Western-Shebelinske, the two fields between Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk that are believed to contain more than 400 billion cubic meters of natural gas.

Holtec signs Chornobyl deal

(Ukrainian Journal)—Holtec International and the Ukrainian government-owned Chornobyl Nuclear Plant signed a protocol Aug. 3 to start the project to encase all of the irradiated nuclear fuel from Chornobyl's three undamaged reactors, Holtec reported. The project, which anticipates storing the fuel into leak-tight containers, is funded by an "assembly" of industrialized countries that include the United States, most countries of Western Europe, Ukraine, and Japan.

Ukraine to boost coal output

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine will add more coal-producing capacity within the next several months to reverse a continued decline in the country's coal output, Coal Industry Minister Serhiy Tulub said July 31. Tulub said the measures include launching 22 new coal mining faces in August to bring a total number of new coal producing faces at the country's coal mines to 165 in 2007.

Hryvnia underestimated

(Ukrainian Journal)—The Ukrainian hryvnia is underestimated, although the revaluation of it is out of place now — the stable hryvnia exchange rate remains a considerable guiding line for the country's economy, according to Association of Ukrainian Banks President Oleksandr Suhoniako. "At present, factors, which affect the strengthening or weakening [the hryvnia exchange rate] are balanced... I don't see an objective cause for speaking about the revaluation of devaluation today. However, I agree with the fact that the hryvnia exchange rate is underestimated," he said on July 31.

Court cancels shipyard sale

(Ukrainian Journal)—Under an appeal of the State Property Fund, the Kiev Economic Court has cancelled a 2003 privatization agreement to sell a 90.25% stake in Mykolayiv-based Black Sea Shipyard due to the non-fulfillment of its conditions. "The court ruled to cancel the agreement and return the stake to the state," the fund's press service told Interfax-Ukraine July 27. The fund said that the ruling is by a court of the first level, and is likely to be appealed.

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AeroSvit buys 75% of Donbas air carrier

(Ukrainian Journal)—AeroSvit, Ukraine's biggest airline, will acquire a 75% stake in Donbasaero, the country's No. 3 air carrier, and will invest heavily in developing airport infrastructure in Donetsk, a company official said July 31.

Aron Maiberg, the general director of AeroSvit, said the company is currently awaiting an approval from the Anti-Monopoly Committee to go ahead with the acquisition. The deal marks further consolidation in Ukraine's rapidly growing airline industry and comes six months after AeroSvit and Donbasaero decided to form a strategic partnership.

AeroSvit has been facing challenges in securing supplies of jet fuel following disagreements with fuel suppliers and the intervention of the government in an attempt to help the air carrier.

The consolidation of assets is expected to strengthen AeroSvit's overall position and may help the company to negotiate better jet fuel supply contracts, according to industry analysts.

This is also expected to help AeroSvit negotiate better deals with suppliers of jet aircraft, as the expanding company will need more planes to handle the increasing traffic.

AeroSvit is already in talks with three major producers of regional jets, such as Bombardier of Canada, Embraier of Brazil and Antonov of Ukraine, to secure at least 10 jets by 2009. Maiberg said the company plans to select the supplier by the end of the year.

The consolidation of assets comes as Ukraine's airline industry has been showing robust growth over the past several years, reflecting strong economic growth and an increase in travel to and from Ukraine.

AeroSvit reported revenues growing 33% on the year to $165 million in the first six months of the year, helping the company to narrow losses to $3.5 million in the period. AeroSvit and Donbasaero handled an overall of 2.1 million passengers in 2006 and planned to boost air traffic to a combined 2.5 million in 2007, according to company forecast. AeroSvit and Donbasaero reported combined revenues of $370 million in 2006, according to industry analysts.

AeroSvit and Donbasaero will run a combined fleet of 28 aircraft, including 14 Boeings (three 767s and 11 737s) two Airbus A-320s, nine Yak-42s and three An-24s. The joint network would cover flights to 89 terminals in 31 countries, including 58 regular international flights, 20 regular charter flights, and 11 domestic flights.

The acquisition of the stake in Donbasaero, which is now owned by the City of Donetsk, comes a week after the company won a tender from local authorities seeking to boost the regional carrier. Under the terms of the deal, the City of Donetsk will own a 25.01% stake in Donbasaero, while AeroSvit will acquire a 74.99% stake.

The value of the deal was not disclosed, but AeroSvit pledged to invest "tens of millions of US dollars" in modernization of the regional infrastructure.

AeroSvit plans to use Donetsk airport in eastern Ukraine as a transitional hub for transportation of travelers between Europe and Asia, analysts said. The investment project calls for doubling passenger traffic through Donetsk airport in the next three years.

Aerosvit to buy 7 Boeing jets

Ukraine's largest airline, AeroSvit, has signed a contract with Boeing to buy seven 737 airliners and taken an option on seven more, the company said on Aug. 2, as reported by Reuters.

"Under the contract, AeroSvit will buy seven Boeing 737-800 planes in 2011-2012, the catalogue price of which totals $523 million, and reserves the right to buy additional seven planes in 2008-2015," the company said in a statement.

AeroSvit did not reveal the actual value of the deal.

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